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ARRIVAL OF MAILS

The German Mail of the 2nd instant arrived per s.s. *P. E. Friedrich* on the 30th ultimo.
The French Mail of the 4th Dec. arrived per s.s. *Sydney* on the 4th inst.

FAR EASTERN NEWS.

Mr. B. D. Bruce succeeds Mr. F. W. Maze as Commissioner of Customs at Tientsin.

Mr. A. R. Lowell, advocate and solicitor, has been struck off the roll of the Court at Singapore.

The students of the Nobles school at Peking who are to be sent abroad to study for the Navy will be sent to England, Germany and France.

The death is announced at Aberdeen of Mrs W. M. Robertson, late managing director of Messrs. Riley, Hargreaves & Co., Ltd., Singapore.

The Board of Rites has made a suggestion to the Throne that, during seven days of the Chinese New Year festivities, the mourning dress may be discarded.

The Opium Revenue returns now published show that up to last month the Government of India receipts from this drug were no less than 189 lakhs of rupees better than the estimate.

The "transport" medal with China clasp has just been received from the Admiralty by Mr. P. F. McCarthy, of Penang, for his services as engineer on the transport *Hinsang* during the Boxer rising in 1900.

At the opening of the Japanese Diet on Dec. 25th the Emperor in his speech from the Throne referred to his peaceful relations with other Powers and alluded to the need for the readjustment of the finances.

The Maharajah of Mysore has been permitted by the Government of India to undertake a tour in Japan. His Highness accompanied by his brother the "Yunraj," was to start on his tour on the 24th instant.

The Shanghai Dock and Engineering Co. Ltd., announces that an interim dividend of Tls. 2.50 per share, for the last half-year ending October 31st, 1908, will be payable to shareholders on January 5th next.

Our Macao correspondent writes that, according to latest mail news, the Colony is to be guarded by three ships of war, the *Patria*, *D. Amelia* and the *Adamastor*. The latter is coming from South Africa.

Mr. Aglen, Commissioner of Customs at Hankow, will shortly leave for home on three months furlough. During his absence Mr. Sugden will be Acting Commissioner, and Mr. Fitzgibbon, Acting Deputy.

A Tientsin paper in a brief note condemning the gambling imports at Shanghai states that it learns from a reliable source that a large number of failures, including some Foreign hong, is expected in the New Year.

A memorial to the Throne suggests that soldiers be sent from Peking to Anwei in order to prevent another revolt and at the same time to impress the soldiers of Anwei with the efficiency attained by the troops in the capital.

The Board of Posts and Communications has decided to open a General Post Office at Lhasa and branch offices in all other important Thibetan cities, so as to facilitate communication between Thibet and the outside world.

The Committee of the Shanghai Athletic Association have decided to hold the Shanghai Marathon Race—distance eighteen miles—on Saturday, the 13th March next, commencing at 2 p.m. The route of the race has not yet been decided on.

The Portuguese gunboat *Patria* proceeded from Singapore to Manila en route to Macao, where she will relieve the gunboat *Rio Lima*, which will return to Lisbon. The *Patria* was to leave Manila, on the 27th instant, and will arrive at Macao for the New Year.

Mr. E. A. Carl, Commissioner of Customs at Newchwang, has been appointed Associate Commissioner with Liu Ju-lin to the Opium Conference which is to meet in Shanghai on the 1st February and Mr. F. W. Carey, acting Assistant Secretary to the Inspectorate General, has been appointed Secretary to the Chinese Commissioners.

News has been received in Japan that the members of the Turkish Parliament had noted with surprise that Japan alone among the great Powers of the world had omitted to send congratulations upon the inauguration of the Parliamentary system. Taking advantage of the opening of the twenty-fifth session of the Diet the House of Representatives resolved to telegraph their congratulations to Turkey.

An American named Hogan, formerly a sergeant in the United States Marine Corps, has been foully murdered in his house at Danalupan, Philippine Islands, by a native. The murder appears to have been committed with a bolo.

A letter of thanks signed by 5,675 men of the U. S. Battleship Fleet, has been received in Japan in acknowledgement of the cordial welcome during their stay in Yokohama. They state in the letter that the entertainment given at Hibiya Park, Tokyo, was the most elaborate yet received by American sailors since the establishment of the Republic.

The fixity of the dollar was, the other day, brought under the notice of the Governor-General of Indo-China by the Chamber of Commerce at Hanoi in Tonkin. The currency of the colony is based on the fickle dollar. The Governor-General agreed with the views of the Chamber, which looked to a fixed dollar, but pointed out that fixity would be dangerous to the Colony so long as China held to a silver basis. The Governor-General gave the usual official assurance that the question would meet with careful consideration on his part, and that he would profit by the experience gained in Siam and Japan in the matter of currency reform.

Lt.-Colonel Watson, late Commandant of the S. V. C., left Shanghai by the last English mail and was accorded a send-off that the *N.C. Daily News* describes as unique in local annals. His carriage was drawn down to the jetty by eight artillery ponies, with outriders, and escorted by detachments of the Light Horse and the Mounted Infantry. At the Customs jetty a large number of volunteers from all units of the Corps were drawn up to bid farewell to their Chief. After inspecting them Colonel Watson went down to the jetty to find it thronged with people. Nearly all the officers of the S. V. C. and S. M. P. as well as representatives of the Customs, the Consulates, and the Municipal Council were present, and numbers of volunteers who had been unable to don their uniforms and fall in with their comrades were present in mufti. Loud cheers were given as the hour for the departure of the tender struck, and when the *Guttlaff* moved away from the jetty there was another enthusiastic outburst of cheering.

Particulars of the death by drowning of Mr. Barlow, of the firm of Messrs. Tait & Co. of Taipei, recently announced in our columns, are now to hand. It appeared from the evidence given at the inquest that Mr. Barlow and Mr. F. C. Hogg went out in a boat on the river to have a swim. Mr. Hogg had got into the water and was swimming when Mr. Barlow dived off the boat and unfortunately got into difficulties in deep water. Mr. Hogg went to the rescue and managed to get his friend to the shore. Subsequently, however, Mr. Barlow was carried away by the current. Mr. Hogg again went to his assistance and made a plucky attempt to get him to land. The drowning man clutched him, however, and, after a desperate effort to gain a place of safety, Mr. Hogg, finding that they were both drowning, was obliged to free himself and make for the shore, which he eventually reached with much difficulty in a completely exhausted condition. At the inquest held by the Japanese authorities the cause of Mr. Barlow's death was given as heart failure. The tragic occurrence caused the deepest regret among the foreign residents at Taipei and much sympathy is felt with Mr. Hogg at the failure of his gallant efforts to save his friend.

The President of the Board of War, Tieh Liang, has wired to the Tartar Generals, Viceroys and Governors of the provinces asking them whether they have carried out his instructions to build gunboats for coast defence and for patrol purposes.

In view of the approaching establishment of a Parliament, the Prince Regent has consulted his Ministers as to the desirability of forming a responsible Cabinet. Their Excellency Chang Chih-tung and Yuan Shih-kai are heartily in favour of the idea, but Prince Ching thinks that this is not the time for it and suggests that the question be shelved for three years.

Mr. T. Jernigan, concludes a long letter on the subject of the U. S. Court for China with the following observations:—"The report that the average status of Americans in China is not good is false. If the American name has been shamed in China it is due more to the corruption and want of social culture of some American officials than to the average American citizen."

The Chinese Commissioner to the International Fish Congress, Koo Hing Ming, says that the United States has promised to send different species of fish to China to assist the industry. Thereupon a San Francisco journal concludes that with the Americanization of the Chinese fish the re-awakening of China ought to be pretty well on toward accomplishment.

The marriage has been celebrated at Tientsin of Miss Edna Hillier, daughter of Mr. H. M. Hillier, Commissioner, I.M.C., and Dr. David Brown, of Tientsin. About three hundred people attended the reception, including Sir Robert and Lady Bredon, and Miss Bredon, M. Casenave, Mr. E. G. Hillier, Sir Walter and Lady Hillier, Sir John Jordan, Lady Jordan and Miss Jordan, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. R. Wade, Miss Daly, Mr. C. D. Jameson, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Rockhill, and Dr. Morrison.

The Straits Settlements is, like Hongkong taking steps to stop spitting. In connection with an amendment to the Minor Offences Ordinance which forbids spitting in public places, etc., instructions have been issued to the Police forbidding wholesale arrests for breaches of this offence. Except under exceptional circumstances, the procedure is to be by summons, but the Assistant Superintendents of Police are not to grant permission for such summons to be issued until they have made enquiry and ascertained that the case is of a sufficiently aggravated nature to warrant punishment. Only European members of the Police force will, as a rule, be allowed to make arrests for this offence.

While schemes are being considered in France to expand population, a writer in a recent number of the *Tokyo Keizai Zasshi* suggests the adoption of a marriage tax in Japan for the purpose of preventing over-population and at the same time of obtaining a new source of revenue for the country. According to the latest census, says the writer, the population of Japan is returned at 48½ millions, and it is increasing annually at the rate of something like half a million. Even now, the writer adds, Japan is suffering to a certain extent from the effects of over-population, and if her population is allowed to grow unchecked at the present rate, it is evident that the country will at no distant future be confronted with a serious problem.

A motor-car accident brought an interesting case before the Police Court, at Saigon, on December 14. The owner of the car is an usher in the Court. The car had knocked over the child of an Indian Government Subordinate Civil Servant, and the child was somewhat injured. The Magistrate sentenced the owner to two years' imprisonment and a fine of 50 francs. The father of the child was awarded \$2,500 damages. The evidence showed that the child's life was saved by the motor-driver's presence of mind. The owner was driving in the car at the time of the accident. The Saigon *Opinion* holds that the damages fixed are too heavy, considering that the child was not injured seriously, and has now recovered. That journal fears that the decision will increase the number of motor-car accidents there. Natives will readily run the risk of being knocked down or run over by an automobile just to get heavy damages. The usher intends to appeal against the Magistrate's judgment.

PEACE.

(Daily Press, December 25th.)

The bellfries of Christendom to-day, in the words of the poet, "roll along an unbroken song of Peace on earth, goodwill to men." And the sentinel who looks out upon the political horizon this morning is happily able to report "All's well with the world." We need not to be reminded that it was not ever thus, for the bellfries of Christendom have too often rolled along their song of peace when there was no peace. Even in the present century great wars have been in progress at this time of the year, making mockery of the carol. But to-day the horizon is clear. The threatening clouds which but a short time ago hung over Eastern Europe have disappeared, and yesterday we were able to announce a change of policy at Venezuela which practically amounts to a settlement of the dispute with Holland, so that peace reigns at the present moment over the whole surface of the globe—an eminently satisfactory reflection for a Christmas morning. Looking back over the year which has passed, we cannot unfortunately say that it has been free from wars and rumours of wars. New Year's Day, in fact, marked the commencement of the French campaign in Morocco; Great Britain a month later was dispatching a punitive force against Zakka Khels, perhaps the most turbulent and dangerous tribes on the Indian frontier; then there was the much-discussed trouble in Macedonia, which threatened the "coming of Armageddon." The most serious fighting, however, has been in Persia, and we are not quite sure that peace has been yet restored. In the Far East we have not been entirely free from war talk. There were apprehensions of some action by Japan against China over the seizure of the *Tatsu-maru*, and, then, again, the idea was conceived by a section of the public in America that Japan meditated war with the United States. In the East everybody knew this to be mere wanton mischief-making, and there can be few men in the United States who are not now of that opinion, for the magnificent reception accorded to the American Fleet, both officially and popularly, was convincing proof of Japan's eminently pacific aspirations as well as of her warm friendship for America. This has recently been followed by a formal exchange of Notes which not only disavow aggressive tendencies on the part of either power, but express the firm resolve to respect the territorial possessions of each other in the Pacific Ocean region, as well as to support the maintenance of the *status quo* and the "open door" in China. The agreement, in short, covers all that is necessary to confound the war-mongers, and their tongues have been effectually silenced by it. Confounded too are the prophets of evil who predicted an anti-dynastic outbreak in China at the end of the reign of Kwang Su for the new régime has had a most peaceful and therefore a most promising start, and there is no indication in any direction whatever in the Far East that the peace is likely to be seriously disturbed for some time to come. In the whole there is much in the history of the past year to gratify the preacher of peace. The sum of strife has been comparatively trivial while diplomacy has strengthened the securities of peace throughout the world. The disturbing element in the prospect is, of course, the constant growth in the armaments of every progressive Power—an expansion professedly in the interests of peace. The day when we can count upon peace on earth for any long period of time, even among Christian races,

is not yet, but there is abundant cause for congratulation in the progress that has been made during recent years towards that ideal of a permanent peace—

When the common-sense of most
Shall hold a fretful realm in awe
And the kindly world shall slumber
Lapt in universal law.

THE DEPORTATION QUESTION.

(Daily Press, December 29th.)

The gratifying announcement was made by a *Gazette Extraordinary* yesterday that His Excellency the Governor, being satisfied that it is no longer necessary for the preservation of the public peace to continue in force the Proclamation issued under the authority of the Peace Preservation Ordinance 1886, has been pleased to direct that the Proclamation should be cancelled, and a notification is accordingly issued cancelling the same. "All's well that ends well." The action taken under the sanction of this Proclamation has evoked much public criticism, occasioned, however, more by the exaggerated rumours of contemplated action which obtained currency among the Chinese than by authoritative information of the steps the Government actually took or intended to take. When the riotous disturbances occurred in the early days of last month, it was patent to everybody, as we pointed out at the time, that something more was necessary than the punishment of the coolies who were caught by the police perpetrating these outrages on the peace and order of the Colony. It was both desirable and necessary that the Government should endeavour to lay their hands upon the actual instigators of the disturbances—the men who were secretly influencing the public mind and indirectly, if not explicitly, inciting the mob to such acts of violence as were committed, not spontaneously but in accordance with a pre-arranged plan of operations. It was clear that there had been organisation, and the plain duty of the Government was to discover the organisers and effectually teach the Chinese community that these outrages cannot be perpetrated with impunity in a British Colony. The machinery for dealing with the position was ready to hand in the Peace Preservation Ordinance of 1886 and under its provisions certain banishment orders were issued against a few Chinese, eight in all, we believe, who were ascertained beyond question to have been prominently identified with the boycott movement. The great disadvantage of action taken under the Peace Preservation Ordinance is its comparative secrecy, and the great cause of complaint has been that banishment orders were issued without a public trial against men who denied the offence with which they were charged by the Government. Part III of the Ordinance clearly lays down the procedure in regard to deportation. It provides that whenever, during the existence of the Proclamation, it shall be represented by the Captain Superintendent of Police to the Governor-in-Council, on written information, that the removal from the Colony of any person not a natural born subject of the King, whether such person shall have been naturalised under the provisions of any Colonial Ordinance or not, is necessary for the public safety, it shall be lawful for the Governor-in-Council, if it shall appear to him, after making such inquiry as to him may seem sufficient, to be necessary for the public safety that such person should be banished from the Colony, to issue a banishment order, &c. Every order of banishment made under this Ordinance has to be forthwith reported by

the Governor to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonies. His Excellency the Governor, even were this procedure not explicitly enjoined upon him, by the Ordinance, is not the man to sanction deportation without satisfying himself of the truth of the allegations brought against the accused person, and we have every confidence that no man has been banished from the Colony without good cause. All, we believe, have now given the requisite assurances not to again offend in the same manner, and have been permitted to return to the Colony. The effect of Government action has been distinctly salutary, though the exaggerated accounts of the Government's action had the unfortunate result of paralysing trade for a time. It was the penalty of secrecy and now that normal conditions have been restored in the Colony the advisability of so amending the Ordinance as to provide for a public trial of the accused persons might well be set down among the questions for early consideration by the Legislative Council. More than twenty years have passed since the Peace Preservation Ordinance was enacted. The Chinese may be assumed to have a better appreciation of the fundamental principles of British rule and British justice than they had then, and, should occasion unhappily arise at any future time for the issue of a Proclamation under the Peace Preservation Ordinance, it must be evident that it would be to the advantage of the Government and the commercial community alike were the accused persons given a public trial, and the deportation orders issued only upon conviction by the regular Court of Law. To permit of this the amendment of the Peace Preservation Ordinance would seem to be necessary, and we suggest that the subject is one which may now reasonably be considered.

CHINESE SELF-SUFFICIENCY.

(Daily Press, December 30th.)

From two opposite, and seemingly perfectly incompatible reasons the cry of the Chinese to be permitted to ruin themselves in their own way has of late years increased in volume and intensity. It has been mainly concentrated on the subject of railways, regarding which it seemed to many capable and well meaning men a hardship that nearly the whole construction and management of Chinese railways should have practically passed into foreign hands. Lately, it is instructive to notice, that the body most interested in the construction of railways, namely the Government of China itself, is beginning to find out the reason that is at the bottom of the seeming anomaly. It is allowed on all sides that it is not the want of means; for China is sufficiently wealthy herself to put up without any apparent effort all the capital required: It is not want of structural ability; for, where tried, the Chinese have always proved themselves capable constructors,—a fact lately emphasised in the building of the line from Peking to Kalgan, and to a less extent in the little line already made between Shanghai and Sungkiang. The reason is in point of fact not far to seek, and has for long been grasped by the foreigner, and impressed by him on the Government of China, yet for all his dinning it is only to-day that China is after generations of apathy at last commencing to have a glimpse of the truth. This is, however, possibly the most wholesome sign in connection with the recent movement in headquarters. However true and wisely conceived were the ideas of the ancient sages, as to the mutual relations of governor and governed, it is nevertheless

the fact that the machine of government could never be got to work. While the sages laid down the principle that the State's only *raison d'être* was the well-being of the people; the State, in the persons of those who administered it, laid down the directly contrary rule that the prosperity of the people was the appanage of the rulers, to be exploited for their own particular benefit. Office was a species of property to be bought and sold, and its proceeds belonged absolutely to the possessor; it was the carrying out to its extreme logical limit of the old adage—*beati possidentes*. Clever business men as the Chinese have ever been, and able as is their administration of commercial affairs, this one false bearing has thrown the whole machine of government out of gear, and has kept China in a continual state of turmoil and disorder. When Manchu succeeded Ming, the instinct of the new government was to rule their newly-acquired possessions as a conquered country, and to prevent concerted action by diminishing the means of communication. Mines were closed and roads permitted to fall into decay, and everything done to isolate the various provinces. Unfortunately from sheer laziness this condition lasted long after the time it might have been useful, and was one of the chief causes leading to the great Taiping Rebellion. With the suppression of that movement a few of the wiser heads commenced to see that if the country were to be brought into safe conditions, a complete revolution in the methods of intercommunication was required; but the majority brought up in the old school refused to see the inevitable, and stuck to the old groove till the war with Japan once more awoke them out of their slumber. This led to the extension of the telegraph service, but the only railway that had been introduced was looked upon still as a useless incumbrance, only fit for outlandish foreigners to make money of.

The result of the Russo-Japanese war, which largely turned on the good use made by Japan of her more rapid means of communication, at last convinced the Government itself, that to be safe from attack from without railways had become an actual necessity. Foreigners had been for many years pressing them on Peking, but had overshot the mark by the indecent urgency with which they pressed for concessions in all parts of the Empire, with the natural result that the suspicions of Government and people were aroused as to their ultimate objects. What foreigners could do China thought she could do as well, with the additional advantage to the country that the gains which the foreigners intended to put in their own pockets would thereby accrue to China. The argument was sound as far as it went, but one thing was kept in the background. Who was to do it? Here at once China's old failing came to the front there was no confidence between rulers and ruled; their interests were different, their methods incompatible. With a system of banking instituted centuries before Europe had thought of such a thing, and with banking facilities almost as perfect as those of the most advanced nations of the world, China still remained without a currency. The reason she well knew: her commerce was carried on by means of silver ingots. These ingots bore no State mark, but merely the impress of a private bank; and why? The bank had early learnt the lesson that good faith is the foundation of profitable commerce. The State founded its ordinary practice on the reverse principle that what came into its hands was its own, and not to be enquired into. Time after time the State had essayed to introduce a

currency, but with the same result: good faith was good enough for the merchant; for the State it was a useless and needless luxury. That such is still the ruling principle of government we have only to look at the copper coins of the day to discover. Yet this debased coin only some five or six years ago was ushered in with a flourish of trumpets as an instance of how far China had gone on the road of reforming her old ways. It has been the custom with regard to this for Peking to cast the finger of scorn at the provincials:—It was these wicked provincial officers that did it all; true, but Peking had taken care in the first instance to make the provinces pay through the nose for the concession, and had deprived itself of the means of even protesting. Whatever happened Peking had taken care ahead that it, at least, would be no sufferer, whoever had to pay the piper.

Now very much the same has happened with regard to the railways, and the only difference is that this time Peking has had the grace to acknowledge that all is not as straight as it should be, and that there is some justification for the feeling of the gentry and people that the Government has not deserved to be trusted. They do not, they say, understand what is meant by the statement that railways are to be a joint undertaking between Government and Gentry; they have, they make bold to say, had enough of these governmental affairs, and recall the promises held out with regard to the telegraphs which did not prevent the Government from practically confiscating the whole of the private shares. An even worse case was that of the Canton-Hankow Railway. It is here no excuse to say that the foreign concessionaires were little better. The Government took the concession away from the original contractors who had broken their pledges, and announced its intention of raising the money by a patriotic subscription from its own subjects, who were promised full control. We all know what the result has been. The Tientsin-Pukou line is not as yet two years old; may it not be that things are cleaner there? We have again the authority of Peking itself that practically they are about as bad as they could well be. The money has gone, and there is no one who finds it his duty to tell where. It is notorious that the first thing done was to appoint a number of useless and besmirched officials to various nominal posts about the line, long ere any beginning of the work was thought of. Peking complains of this, but there is unfortunately a good deal of suspicion that the crime here was, not in having appropriated funds intended for construction to their own private uses, but rather that they had forestalled the capital. All all events, the result is much the same; the foreigner has been found to provide the funds, and this time he has engaged to ask no questions. Whether the result is likely to be satisfactory, for either lender or borrower, remains to be seen. Seeing how little sign there is of any disposition to amend, it would certainly seem to be kinder, in the interests of good government in China, and the welfare of people and Government alike, to require some means of practical control. It is not meet that we should find ourselves in the unenviable position of riveting on China the yoke of the eunuchs, who have already brought her so low. Yet that is what we seem to be doing, for there is little doubt that here, as in the case of the copper ten-cash issue, certain eunuchs in or about the court of the late EMPRESS DOWAGER could give some account of the money that has been squandered.

ANTI-FOREIGN FEELING AT CANTON.

(Daily Press, 31st December.)

The news which we publish to-day from our Canton correspondent regarding the mischievous propaganda of the misnamed Self-Government Association of that city must—especially at this time of the year—be regarded as disquieting, to say the least about it. There has not in recent years, he says, been a recrudescence of anti-foreign feeling in Canton equalling in intensity that which now prevails. The agitation engineered by the so-called Self-Government Association in consequence of the death of a Chinese passenger on the steamer *Fatahan* eclipses the agitation aroused over the *Tatsu Maru* affair, and the violence of the language employed to inflame the minds of the populace is certain to lead to serious mischief unless rigorous measures are taken by the authorities to suppress the agitation. No sign of any movement in this direction on the part of the Viceroy or the police officials at Canton is apparent. On the contrary, the published statements purporting to give the views of the Viceroy with reference to the *Fatahan* affair distinctly sympathise with, and therefore encourage, the agitation which is being fomented by a small group of political mischief-makers. In the authenticity of these alleged official dispatches, which have been reproduced in the Canton papers, we have hesitated to believe, so crude are the views expressed; but as no steps have apparently been taken to correct the mischievous impression they create, the populace can only regard them as encouraging and justifying the propaganda of the group of political hooligans styling themselves the Self-Government Association. Everything that a Consul can do to satisfy the officials and the general public of Canton that the allegations against the Portuguese ticket-collector are entirely unfounded, has been done by Mr. Fox, and it is a sorry comment on the education and intelligence of the Viceroy's advisers that the exhaustive and impartial inquiry held at the British Consulate, in the presence of deputies appointed by the Viceroy, has not been accepted as final and conclusive. Only one verdict was possible on the evidence, but it was plainly indicated by the Chinese agitators before the inquiry commenced, that no verdict would be acceptable which did not entail the punishment of the person accused. The notions of the Self-Government Association were obviously shared by the Viceroy, and it has since been abundantly shown that in the viceregal yamen blind prejudice has taken the place of sane judgment. We hope the fears our correspondent expresses may not be realised, but if difficulties are to be avoided it seems highly necessary that that British authorities should lose no time in getting the Viceroy to realise his responsibility in the matter.

APPROACHING SANITARY BOARD ELECTION.

(Daily Press, December 31st.)

It is not generally known that the period for which Mr. SHELTON HOOPER and Mr. HENRY HUMPHREYS were elected members of the Sanitary Board expires on January 21st next. If there is to be a contested election, it is time therefore that candidates announced themselves. We regret to learn that neither Mr. HUMPHREYS nor Mr. HOOPER is anxious for re-election, but we hope that, before the time for election arrives, they may be induced to stand for another term. It is scarcely necessary to

remind the public of the services these gentlemen have rendered the community during the past three years. They joined the Board at a time when the operations of the Sanitary Department were causing wide-spread dissatisfaction, and their efforts to remedy the grievances complained of resulted in the appointment of the famous Sanitary Commission. Both were hard-working members of that Commission and, though the public generally can have but a very inadequate idea of the sacrifice of time which that prolonged investigation required or the amount of painstaking labour it involved, the public is at least in a position to fully appreciate the beneficent results. The "Augean stable" has been cleansed, and public confidence has been restored in the Sanitary Department. For this improved condition of things the public are largely indebted to Mr. SHELTON HOOPER and Mr. HENRY HUMPHREYS, and we are sure that their retirement from a position in which they have been able to render such signal service to the community would be viewed with very great regret. Should there be a contested election, it would this time be on an extended franchise, but we believe the public are so well satisfied with their present representatives on the Board that no desire for a change is likely to be manifested. It only needs to be generally known that the period for which they were chosen is so near its close, to elicit an expression of the public gratitude to Messrs. HOOPER and HUMPHREYS, and of the desire, which we are sure widely exists, that they will continue to represent the community on the Board.

THE OLD YEAR.

(Daily Press, January 1.)

An old and half-forgotten poet once welcomed a New Year with lines like these:—

Plague on't; the last was ill enough—

This cannot but make better proof;

Or, at the worst, as we brushed through

The last, why, so we may this too.

Nine business men out of ten, these last three years, have probably had similar sentiments at the dawning of the years, but on the present occasion the signs and portents are rather more encouraging, and give justification for greater cheerfulness and hope. In the Review of the Trade of the Colony for the year 1908, which we publish to-day, in accordance with our annual custom, may be discerned a tone of quiet optimism and confidence in many branches of business and the impression that this collection of reports leaves upon the mind is that the cloud of depression, which has hung like a pall over commercial operations for three years now, is slowly lifting. The steady recovery of the United States from the great financial crisis which overwhelmed it in 1907 will re-act on the China trade. A gradual return to a normal basis has recently been noted everywhere in the United States. Orders reaching the industrial centres are reported to be steadily increasing; confidence in the future is restored and the country is described as returning to normal business conditions more rapidly than ever before after a period of depression. The Bank clearings show this. In England and on the Continent of Europe the prospects at present are not so bright, but there are not wanting indications of a revival of trade.

In taking stock of things political the outstanding events of the year in this part of the world have been the death of the Emperor KWANG HSU, followed the next day by the demise of the aged Empress Dowager, and the appointment of Prince CHUN, the late Emperor's brother, as Regent—during

the minority of his infant son, who was proclaimed Emperor. Contrary to general expectation, the new régime has been quietly inaugurated and the accessional Edicts give promise of the development of those ideas of reform and progress which have been the theme of a multitude of Imperial Edicts during the past two years. The promise of a Constitution has not been lost sight of. It was repeated in the death-bed Edicts of the late rulers, and was endorsed in the Accessional Edict of the new monarch. The next eight years will be a time of preparation on the part of the nation to receive the promised gift. Nothing else of a very startling nature has occurred in China during the past year. The anti-opium movement, begun in 1907, has been continued, but it is very difficult to judge of the progress made. Next month an International Conference on this subject sits at Shanghai when we may hope to learn something authoritative as how far the Imperial Edicts enjoining the restriction of native cultivation of the poppy, and the suppression of opium smoking, have been obeyed. Another movement of perhaps a less general character has been the boycott of Japanese goods maintained by the Cantonese for more than half the year, by way of protesting against what they regarded as a high-handed action on the part of the Japanese Government in insisting on the release of the Japanese steamer seized near Macao by two Chinese gunboats on the ground that she was engaged in smuggling arms into China. That such a movement should have been allowed to grow up to defy and set at nought the act of the Government, is a comment on the weakness and inefficiency of the control exercised by the responsible authorities which requires no elaboration. That the boycott is now practically at an end is not due to any exertion on the part of the Government, but is attributed to the circumstance that the ultra-patriots have too much on their hands to give the matter that close attention which they have heretofore devoted to it. For the rest, China has now few unsettled disputes with foreign powers. With the exception of the small question of the delimitation of the boundaries of Macao, the only matters of importance remaining are the questions now under negotiation with the Japanese Minister at Peking and an early settlement of these is anticipated. Good progress is being made with the construction of railways in China, and in many other ways signs of peaceful development and progress are to be noted.

As to Japan the Emperor and his Government have given substantial proof of the peaceful aims of the nation in the drastic reductions which have been made in military expenditure; in the Imperial Rescript enjoining upon the people the development of the industries and commerce of the country; and finally in the exchange of Notes effected with the United States Government giving additional assurance of peace in the Pacific.

The general aspect of the year so far as the Colony of Hongkong is concerned calls for very few words. We need a return of prosperity very badly. The Budget showed a deficit of some \$400,000, and the anti-opium policy of the Home Government hangs like a Damocles' sword over the Colony, threatening to lop off the chief source of its revenue. The most important legislative achievement has been the placing upon the statute book of the Amended Public Health and Buildings Ordinance which is the outcome of the Sanitary Commission. There has been a much lighter crime roll than in the preceding year, but 1908 will be

noteworthy in police annals by reason of the fact that the Peace Preservation Ordinance had to be proclaimed in consequence of a riotous outbreak connected with the boycott of Japanese goods. The proclamation remained in force for two months and was only cancelled last week. It is satisfactory to record that good progress is being made with the railway and other public works in the Colony. A commencement has been made with the new typhoon shelter at Mongkoktsui, the cost being defrayed by the increased taxation of shipping. This reminds us of the typhoon of July 27th last which did enough damage to house property to give it title to rank among the notable events of 1908. The commencement of work at the Taikoo Dockyard and Engineering Works and the completion of the Naval Extension Works are also to be noted. It has been a bad year for plague, the cases totalling 1,073, a total not exceeded since 1903. Socially, the year has not been distinguished in any marked way, and on the whole it must be set down as a very dull year for the Colony, though not more so than its two or three immediate predecessors have been. May this one be infinitely better, for the Colony as a whole and for every individual member of it!

RANDOM REFLECTIONS.

Back to ordinary life again. Christmas with its pump handle joviality, its shower of greetings, and its heavy feeding, is over, and we are now struggling, more or less successfully, to get back to "the daily round, the common task." No doubt Christmas is a good time, but it is disorganising.

There are, of course, different views of Christmas. To the child it is a time of inexpressible delight, to the hard-working man or careworn business man it is a time of rest, and to the ordinary individual it means a bright day in a usually drab existence. On the other hand, it is a terror to the mean man because it involves demands which he does not care to gratify, and to the lonely man it is a time of misery, as it emphasises his loneliness.

I heard some of my Scottish friends say that Christmas spoils New Year. It robs the later festival of many of its characteristic features, and makes the individual less appreciative of its joys. Doubtless Scottish folk do not like to see their festival eclipsed by the other, but after all the observance of Christmas brings them more into line with the other peoples of the world.

Welcome to Lady Lugard! She has returned to the Colony in time to brighten up Christmas at Government House, and those outside the gubernatorial residence will be glad to see her sweet smile again. Her absence was felt and her presence will now be appreciated.

Talk of international amity! Where in the world is there such an example as is furnished by Hongkong? In its busy harbours the warships of no fewer than six different nations were seen lying alongside each other during the week, namely, British, American, French, German, Italian and Austrian. Quite a happy family, and another instance of our cosmopolitanism.

Notwithstanding all that has been said and written about the talking nuisance at concerts, it is deplorable to find that it is not abated. The offender usually belongs to the fair sex, and, with a charming lack of consideration for all around her, she chatters to her companion on every topic but that of music, while lovers of the art have their evening's pleasure spoiled by her unceasing chin-wagging. At Saturday night's concert at the Theatre Royal a lady made herself conspicuous in this manner, and though several more men had the temerity to look their disapproval at her, the "unruly member" was not subdued. The incident had its sequel when several people left the vicinity and sought seats

where their pleasure would not be marred by a lady's talking—which most men can obtain without payment.

A hint for the Sanitary Board, especially the officials entrusted with the care of the cat emporium! In a home paper I read—"Many triumphs in original colour were seen at the great champion show of cats opened at the Crystal Palace yesterday. With the modern cat, beauty is to a large extent skin deep—that is to say, coat and colour reckon high, and high value is set on certain combinations of colour which have only recently been achieved in their full measure. The most artistic of all modern cats is the blue Russian, of which Lady Decies has the pick, and yesterday won most of the prizes. Her best exhibits are of a level light blue tint, absolutely unflecked by any other shade, and they possess that second desideratum—a copper coloured eye, which, to the regret of all cat breeders, is apt to fade into the common green with age. In the case of the white smooth-haired cat the eye should be blue, and such an animal as the unbeaten Fulmer Snowstorm is a revelation in the breeder's power to get the pure colours he seeks. Again, the silver tabbies, whose virtue depends on the blackness of the lines and the clearness of the marking between them, are preferred either with golden or green eyes. But to judge by two of the best—Miss Cope's Roiall Dame and Mrs. Slingsby's Don Pasquale of Thorpe—the gold is preferred. So, in the self-colour "oranges," a very popular shade in rough-haired cats, the eye matches the coat every closely. But to the public, who do not deal in special colour, the smooth-haired Russian blues with the copper eyes are the most remarkable example of modern colour schemes and the highly artistic cat. Some of these are worth £50, though the best are descended from a recent and blemished progenitor picked up for a song in a shop in Fulham."

Hongkong ought to be able to introduce several new features, and an enterprising department might have on view such breeds as "death on rats," "won't be squeezed," "anti-opium," "the stay-at-homes," "the maskee," "the pugnacious," and so on, with colours varying from an eastern purple to a funereal black or a doubtful white.

We have heard the different stages of drinking often described, but I never heard it more quaintly set forth than by a Chinaman I ran across at Kowloon city on Xmas Day, "Hullo," I said, as I saw him carrying a bottle, "you cathee samshu for Christmas?" "Yes," he answered, "I pay ten cents one bottle! English wine more better." With that I agreed and he continued: "English wine one drink makee head go round, two drink no savee nothing, three drink makee fall down—all same sleep." He knew a thing or two, that chap.

We in Hongkong may well take courage. Trade may be bad, and no doubt we have passed through a pretty serious time and are perhaps not quite clear of it yet, but it is comforting to know that we are not suffering alone. According to the interview with Mr. Lau Chu Pak published in the *Daily Press* the other day, the depression in trade is general all over China and the other ports are as badly off as Hongkong. That gives us grace of heart, because whatever may be said, we know we are not suffering altogether for our own sins.

We see many quaint things in this part of the world, but none more so than that related by Mr. Lau Chu Pak who, in the interview alluded to, said he saw a horse, a bullock and a donkey harnessed together to a plough. Doubtless the farmer thought more of utility and practical results than appearance.

I see the Chief Justice, despite the fact that he had to cram eight days work in three, is still working overtime on judgments. Another long one filled a few columns on Christmas Day, and I wondered why his Lordship didn't take his own advice to heart. Last week he expressed himself in favour of the adoption of the French method in conveyancing. "You simply say what you mean," explained Sir Francis. Why doesn't—But no! I won't say it. This is Christmas and we shouldn't say anything unkind.

How very serious men become when they are vested with a little authority. According to home papers the conduct of girl students at Glasgow University has incurred the displeasure of the Senate who have appointed a lady censor of morals "to check the waste of time caused by the girls speaking to the men students when there is no necessity to do so." I wonder if the members of the senate regard the time they spent with their sweethearts as wasted. The national bard thought differently when he wrote

The happiest oors that e'er I spent
Were spent among the lasses, oh

Some ladies have a sense of humour. The other day in the car I overheard one relating how she had "got one" on her husband. Apparently the couple were sitting at breakfast and the husband noticing that his wife was looking rather glum asked the reason and was told that she had had a distressing dream overnight. Naturally he wished to know all about it. "Well," she said, "I dreamt of a shop where there was a sale of husbands. They were marked at all figures. Some were priced at \$300, some \$200, some \$100, and a lot at \$50." "Did you see any like me," was the perhaps rather foolish query of the husband, for it brought out the crushing rejoinder "Oh, yes, there were husbands like you tied up in bundles labelled ten cents each." Needless to say, he didn't ask any more.

RODERICK RANDOM.

HONG KONG.

No case of communicable disease was reported in the Colony last week.

Her Excellency Lady Lugard returned to the Colony on Xmas Eve by the P. and O. mail steamer *Assaye*.

On Dec. 31 a fatal case of plague was reported from Wanchai. This brings the total cases to the end of the year to 1,073.

The iron structure at Blake Pier is practically completed. The shelter looks a substantial one and should not disappear when the next typhoon strikes the Colony.

On Kennedy Road, which at its terminus near the Naval Hospital is not without danger to pedestrians at night, owing to its precipitous sides not being protected, there is now being erected a useful fence.

Many quaint specimens of English are seen in Hongkong. The latest issued by the proprietor of a native hotel is an invitation to his customers to attend the Christmas drawing at his place. There are "500 numbers and every one are entitled to get more or less present."

His Majesty the King has not been advised to exercise his power of disallowance with respect to Ordinance No. 16 of 1908, entitled—An Ordinance to extend a certain definition in the Imperial Act styled the Evidence (Colonial Statutes) Act 1907.

Before Mr. J. H. Kemp at the Magistracy on Dec. 28th a Chinese woman was charged with stealing ten pearls valued at \$1,100 from the tenant of 26, Staunton Street. Two other natives, a man and a woman, were charged with receiving the pearls, and the case was remanded.

The many friends of Mr. Stuart J. Fuller, who for two years and a half has been American Vice-Consul-General at Hongkong, will be gratified to learn that a telegram has been received announcing that he passed his examinations in Washington recently, which puts him on the list eligible for appointment as full consul. Mr. Fuller arrived on the *Empress of Japan* on New Year's Day after an absence of three and a half months, to resume his duties.

Agreements have recently been concluded between owners of the steamship lines taking cargo for Europe or for the United States via Suez to bring into force in Hongkong on and after 11th January next an arrangement for the measuring for cargo by a sworn measurer. With this end in view Captain B. Branch has been appointed official measurer for the lines running to Europe as well as the lines carrying cargo to the United States via Suez. Captain O. Mensing has been appointed official measurer at Canton for the steamers carrying cargo to the United States via Suez.

SANITARY BOARD

A special meeting of the Sanitary Board was held on December 29th for the purpose of considering the question of declaring Nos. 11 and 12 sheds, Sassoon's Villa, Pokfulam Road, to be infected with foot and mouth disease. Mr. R. O. Hutcheson presided, and there were also present Hon. Mr. W. C. Latham (Vice President), Hon. Mr. E. A. Irving (Registrar-General), and Dr. Pearse (Medical Officer of Health).

The COLONIAL VETERINARY SURGEON wrote as follows:—I have the honour to report for the information of the Board that foot and mouth disease have appeared in Nos. 11 and 12 sheds belonging to the Dairy Farm Company, at Sassoon's Villa, Pokfulam Road. The two sheds form together one building, divided only by a partition. The sheds contain 17 cows and three are infected. I beg therefore to recommend that sheds Nos. 11 and 12 be declared infected areas under byelaw 12 of the Importation and Inspection of Animals Byelaws in schedule B of Ordinance 1 of 1903-1908.

The PRESIDENT proposed that the building be declared infected.

The VICE-PRESIDENT seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

A second letter by the COLONIAL VETERINARY SURGEON stated:—I have the honour to report for the information of the Board that yesterday afternoon the manager of the Dairy Farm Co. reported that he suspected that one of the cows in No. 10 shed, Sassoon's Villa, Pokfulam Road, was suffering from rinderpest. The shed contains 17 cows, one calf and one bull. Two cows have now contracted the disease. I beg to recommend that this shed be declared an infected area under byelaw 12 of the Importation and Inspection of Animals Byelaws in schedule B of Ordinance 1 of 1903-1908.

A motion to this effect was proposed by the PRESIDENT, seconded by the VICE-PRESIDENT, and carried unanimously.

This ended the business.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE.

On Friday 25th H.E. the Governor and Lady Lugard entertained H.E. The Maharaj Kumar of Sikkim, attended by Major O'Connor, to dinner at Government House.

Lady Lugard's first "At Home," since her return to the Colony was given yesterday, and it is unnecessary to say that it was very largely attended. Lady Lugard looks well and received a constant succession of congratulations upon her recovery from the indisposition which obliged her ladyship to leave Hongkong for the summer. The orchestral band of The Buffs was in attendance at the "At Home," and with dancing in the ball-room, and refreshments in the supper rooms and on the lawn, a pleasant couple of hours were spent.

On Tuesday His Excellency the Governor and Lady Lugard gave a dinner in honour of Their Excellencies the Japanese Ambassador and Madame Katō.

The following guests were invited:—Sir Francis and Lady Piggott, and Miss Oxley; the Hon. Mr. May, C.M.G., and Mrs. May; the Hon. Mr. and Mrs. Pollock; Admiral of the Fleet Sir James Erskine, K.C.B., Lady and Miss Erskine; Commodore, Mrs. and Miss Lyon; Captain Erskine R.N.; Captain Marquis L. Visconti; Captain Baron Meyern Hohenberg; H.E. Major-General Broadwood, C.B.; Colonel Darling R.E.; Lt.-Colonel Chamier, C.M.G., and Mrs. Chamier; Captain Heathcote, A.D.C.; the Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Victoria and Mrs. Lander; Mr. and Mrs. Funatsu; Comm. and Mrs. Volpicelli; Mr. Wilder; Mr. and Mrs. Scott.

LADY LUGARD INDISPOSED.

We regret to learn that Lady Lugard has been confined to her bed since Wednesday through an attack of gastritis. On account of this all her Ladyship's engagements have been postponed.

BELILIO PUBLIC SCHOOL.

PRIZE DISTRIBUTION.

On Dec. 30 was prize presentation day at the Belilios Public School, and Mrs. F. H. May distributed the prizes to successful scholars. There was a large attendance present, including Mr. E. D. C. WOLFE, the Inspector of Schools, and Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Belilios.

After an excellent musical programme by the scholars, Mr. WOLFE read the annual report of the headmistress. Mrs. Tatcher wrote:—

I have the honour to submit the eighteenth annual report for this school. There has been only one change in the staff during the year. One of the junior mistresses left to be married, and was succeeded by Miss Annie Lesbirel. The increase in attendance, begun in 1907, was well maintained until the month of May. During the plague epidemics the average attendance dropped suddenly from 131 to 91. In July matters began to improve and since then the figures have steadily increased, making an average for the year of 106.5 as against 108 for the previous year. The fees received during the year amount to \$167 in excess of those for 1907. The amalgamation of the Chinese and non-Chinese sections of the school in the beginning of the year has been found to work admirably. The consequent reduction in the number of the classes made it possible to supervise the working of each, and the results show a much greater uniformity in the quality of the work through all the standards. The study of Chinese is a new subject. This class is under Mr. Ngan, one of the vernacular masters, and in future all Chinese girls who desire to study English must at the same time advance in the knowledge of their own language until a certain standard has been reached. Of the five free scholars belonging to this school, one left to be married, and one has gone to Canton, so two vacancies have to be filled. Besides these, four girls from grant-in-aid schools were awarded a free education here, and the progress of all has been most satisfactory. After many years of inconvenience through the noise proceeding from carpenters and blacksmiths, shops in the immediate neighbourhood of the school, we have at last, thanks to the efforts of the Inspector of Schools, got rid of the nuisance and the relief is much appreciated by all concerned. As in former years Mr. R. E. Belilios has generously supplied six handsome volumes as special prizes for English composition. The awards were made according to the results of a special examination. The annual examination of the whole school by myself was begun on December 8th and the results, especially in the lower classes, were very satisfactory. The report of the Inspector of Schools on his examination on the 14th and 15th December are not yet to hand.

Mr. WOLFE then remarked that not more than one third of the Chinese pupils attended the Chinese classes. The curious fact was that so few girls availed themselves of the opportunity of acquiring a knowledge of their own language. It was absolutely useless to acquire a foreign language till they knew their own. After they had acquired Chinese, and continued it at all events until there was no chance of their forgetting it, then it would be time to learn English. He would not be surprised if the Chinese class was made compulsory next year. The speaker concluded by reading his annual report.

Mrs. MAY then distributed the prizes to the following pupils:—

CLASS I.

Mabel Long, history and hygiene, and geography and map drawing; Ivy Lee Choey, general intelligence and grammar; Edith Mow Thing, arithmetic and composition.

CLASS II.

Agnès Lee, general knowledge, hygiene and arithmetic; Lily Rose, composition; Rose Ablony, grammar and map drawing; Felicita Luz, geography and history; Mabel Sheffield, improvement.

CLASS IV.

Mabel Mooney, history and special for diligence; Emily Ah Wee, geography; Angelina Xavier, arithmetic; May Lesbirel, composition.

CLASS V.

Camilla Colliaco, composition; Wong Tin Tai, history and arithmetic; Hung Ah Nui, geography; Chu Mi Cheng, Li Yuk Wah, and Chung King Yuk.

Chan A Yuk, Chan A So, To Yin Fong and Yee Mui for Chinese embroidery.

CLASS VI.

Shin Tack Hing, composition; Chan Ah So, Chan King Chan, Choi San King and Wong Sai Mui, general excellence.

CLASS VII.

Hon Fin Li, composition; Hon Fun Ching, Lo Yuk Chan, Fred Silva, general excellence.

CLASS VIII.

Gladys Woolley, Rose Tain, Yee Mui, Kwok Fsang Kih, Ye Nui, Chan Pik Ham, Leung I Tak, Mary Tong, U Yuk Ching, Chu Mi Ching, Li Yuk Wah, and Chung King Yuk, general excellence.

Chan A Yuk, Chan A So, To Yin Fong and Yee Mui for Chinese embroidery.

To Yin Fong, Hung Ah Nui, Kwok Tsing Shan and Chung Cheung Tseung for study of Chinese.

Mrs. May was then presented with a bouquet and the proceedings terminated with cheers for her, for the Inspector of Schools, for the visitors and for the teachers.

The grateful thanks of the teachers and pupils are due to the following gentlemen, who so kindly subscribed to the prize fund, and to Mr. R. E. Belilios for six special prizes given for excellence in composition.—Hon. Sir C. P. Chater, K.C.M.G., Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, C.M.G. Messrs. J. R. M. Smith, R. Shewan, E. Shellim, W. G. Humphreys, H. Humphreys, Butterfield and Swire, Jardine, Matheson & Co. Gibb, Livingston & Co.; Linstead & Davis, Lane Crawford & Co., Johnson Stokes & Master, Hughes & Hough, Bradley & Co., Melchers & Co., Douglas Lapraik & Co., Sam Wang & Co., See Woo & Co., Tak Cheong & Co., Messrs Lau Chu Pak, Ho Fook, Ho Tung, Tung Wa Chun, Chan Sin Ki, Lock Hing.

A handsome volume was presented for good conduct by Miss Kathleen Sachse, an old pupil.

ST. PAUL'S COLLEGE PRIZE PRESENTATION.

His Lordship the Rt. Rev. Bishop Lander presided at the annual prize distribution at St. Paul's College on Dec. 31. There were also present the Rev. E. J. Barnett, the Rev. A. D. Stewart, the Rev. and Mrs. Bunbury, Mrs. F. H. May and a number of other ladies.

After an opening hymn and a prayer, the Rev. A. J. BUNBURY read the annual report, from which the following extracts are taken:—

The ninth year of work of the C. M. S. Training College has been marked by distinct progress both in the Boys' and in the Students' departments. It is hardly necessary to remind our friends that we have here classes of students—boys, the sons of Christian parents, who are given a general education and of whom the most suitable are selected as school-masters in our schools in China, and men of at least 20 years of age who are trained as catechists. The chief hindrances to our work have been, first the limited character of the buildings of St. Paul's College, and secondly, the repeated attacks of beri-beri, from which this year, as in earlier years, the College has suffered.

The former difficulty, limited space, will be partly removed by an agreement between the Bishop of Victoria and the Church Missionary Society whereby the whole available room will be placed at the disposal of the College. The latter, beri-beri, is a complaint which yearly seems to increase in severity in South China. Not this College only, but other educational institutions in Canton, Wu-chow, and Swatow have suffered. Hitherto the complaint has defied investigation, and the report recently issued that the germ had probably been discovered will be welcomed by none more gladly than by the authorities of this College. To set against these difficulties we have the assistance of the Rev. A. D. Stewart, whose aid as Vice Principal is most valuable. In the students' class the course of study has been two years, and has recently been raised to three. The four men who were drowned with the late Bishop Hoare would have completed their course, had they lived, in January 1908. No men went out at

that time but at the close of this year we have two students, one from Pakhoi, two from Shiu-hing, who, having completed their training, have been accepted by the Mission as catechists. The students' class has never been so large as this year. In addition to the two men just mentioned, nine others entered in February last after examination, and on the recommendation of native or foreign clergy.

Of the fifteen members of the Class who have been accepted by the Church Missionary Society for employment during the past seven years, four have resigned, two have been removed by death (one during this year) and the remainder are still carrying on good and faithful work amid surroundings which often are far from easy.

During the year the average number of boys in the schools was 60. Of these, twenty-four were in the Upper School and thirty-six in the Preparatory School in Kowloon City. The latter school is held in an old yamen, the property of the Colonial Government, who kindly allow us the use of it at a nominal rental on a repairing lease. During this, the second year, good work has again been done by the little boys under the charge of Mr. Leung Kin Foon the head-master, and his assistant Mr. Li Po Sam. The health of the latter has prevented him performing his duties during the last few months and his place has been temporarily taken by Mr. Kwan Tak Yan. Each of those three young masters are old boys, and their work has shown that their interest in their old school has not flagged.

At the beginning of the year this school was one of four schools which provided for the needs of the sons of our Christians; the others being held at Canton, Pakhoi, and Shiu-hing. (All the boys who entered the College this year had passed through one or other of these schools.) When the Rev. A. Iliff was removed by death in August last, it became impossible to continue that school, at least temporarily, and we received eight of the boys into the Kowloon School. Their knowledge of Scripture and English shows how faithful and thorough was Mr. Iliff's work among these little boys during the last months of his life, during which he devoted several hours each day to them.

Progress has been steady in the Upper School, but studies suffered a severe setback when in the middle of May the outbreak of beri-beri rendered it necessary to evacuate for a time the College buildings. We did our best for the boys, and our thanks are especially due to the Headmasters of the Sai-ying-pun and Yau-ma-tai Government Schools for allowing boys whose homes were in Hongkong to complete the summer term in those schools. Mr. Stewart's commencement of work in the College has made possible more advanced teaching than in earlier years, when I was the only foreign master. It is probably known that in this school the medium of instruction is the Chinese language, and that English (in which a daily lesson is given to each class) is a 'subject.' Much may be said for, and much against, the use of a foreign language as a medium of instruction, but this at least appears certain, that a technical vocabulary is rapidly being created in Chinese by the labours of a multitude of teachers and writers both native and foreign, and that a complete acquaintance with English, though desirable, is not essential to the pursuit of knowledge. The new Government Schools in the Empire of China (of which Hongkong is not a part) employ the Chinese language only, while giving instruction in some European language (usually English) as a compulsory subject. Hence it was with deep interest that I was able to visit three secondary schools in Shiu-hing, and study their methods of work. As a result of these observations a few slight changes have been made in our course of studies at the College, in the direction of assimilation with these schools. In February last, two senior lads completed their course and were appointed to assistant-masterships in preparatory schools. One resigned in the autumn: the other remains with us. Another boy, a visitor from the S. P. G. Mission in Borneo, stayed with us one year and is now a school-master in Kudat. As regards studies, the usual subjects have been taught, but more time has been devoted to history and map-drawing than in previous years. In view too of the interest taken in the proposed constitution

of China, I have on the Saturdays of the second half year given a series of lectures on the Parliament of England, as illustrating the gradual growth of our constitution.

It may not be improper to say a word about the finances of the College. The students are supported by an annual grant from the Church Missionary Society, which is not available for the Boys' School, except for the salaries of the masters. The expenses of these schools are defrayed from two sources; school fees and the subscriptions of friends in Hongkong or in England. During the first years, the Boys' School was entirely free, by the advice of the late Bishop Hoare; in 1903 the sum of \$6 per annum was charged, (a nominal sum as the boys were boarders.) In 1906 the fees were raised to \$20 per annum, and this year to \$30 in the college, and \$25 in the Preparatory School. Experience seems to show that we have reached the limit of fees, as most of our Christians are poor, some very poor, and the boys have to become wage earners on their own account, or help their families, as soon as possible. Nevertheless the sum received for fees in the Upper School increased from \$54 in 1903 to \$645 in 1907. At the present time, of sixty boys in the two schools, only fourteen are supported in the sense of having school fees paid for them. These are supported by friends, who usually select one boy for temporary 'adoption.' No boy is supported from the general funds, nor is any boy clothed from those funds, for we are a School not a Home. At the same time the sum of \$30 paid by parents or supporters is only sufficient to feed boys during the ten months of the school year. Hence, for apparatus, and funds to provide for those other expenses necessarily involved in the efficient working of the school, we are bound to depend on subscriptions. In conclusion, we wish to express our thanks to the many helpers who have by their personal service, or their gifts, rendered this ninth year of the College successful:—to the Right Rev. the Bishop for presiding here to-day and for his gift of a Scripture Prize; to the Rev. Fok Tsing Shan, and Messrs. Tung, Leung, Li, Liu, Lui, 'hu' and Kwan, for their instruction during the whole or parts of the year, to Mrs. Bunbury and Miss Stewart for giving instruction in English to elder boys; to Miss Storr for the weekly singing class at the Kowloon School; to Mr. Chau Kwan Lam for gratuitous instruction in mathematics during several weeks in the spring; to Dr. Harston for his care of boys suffering from trachoma; to the authorities of the Alice Hospital, to whom, as in past years, the College owes a debt of gratitude; to Messrs. Lazarus for the gift of spectacles in a case of defective sight; to Mr. W. L. Pattenden for an English Prize (for which he has also examined); to friends in Clifton and Hongkong who have aided in the annual sale of work, and to the many others whose names appear as donors of subscribers. To the renewed kindness of the Colonial Government the Kowloon School owes its present quarters, while the thanks of both boys and masters in that school are due to Mr. Li Ping for having free of charge laid in concrete the whole floor of the large class room. Last, but not least, to the donors of tennis balls and bats, we again express our best thanks.

Pastor Fok of St. Stephen's Church then addressed the boys in Chinese, and the Rev. Mr. BUNBURY gave a résumé of the address in English. The Pastor told the boys of the difficulties which might attend their desire to serve God. There were three types of difficulties, he said, the first being opposition, the second inclination, and the third the question of the comparative emoluments which were obtained by native preachers and by those who did not do church work. Mr. FOK concluded by advising the boys to look to the end when beset by any of those difficulties.

HIS LORDSHIP, BISHOP LANDER, then addressed the gathering. He stated that St. Paul's was one of the oldest institutions in the Colony. He had found in its archives mildewed statute documents dating back some 60 years, when the college was founded by the liberality of a brother and sister. The object of the college primarily was the training of native clergy and Christian teachers for the propagation of the Gospel in China according to the doctrine of the Church of England. During its nearly 60 years of existence the college had passed through many vicissitudes,

and through all its long history it was never more necessary and never more efficient than it is to-day. They should be thankful for the excellent report, and for the encouraging words of Pastor Fok. His Lordship desired to express his thanks and appreciation of the work of the Principal, the Vice-Principal and the staff. Long before he came here he heard from friends at home of the good qualities of the Principal and Vice-Principal. It pleased his Lordship to bear witness to the good conduct of the students. He lived side by side with them, and hardly knew there was a college near him. He emphasised the great importance of the work of training teachers; the people of China were becoming more and more educated every day, and educated people certainly necessitated educated clergy. Referring to the question of emoluments which Pastor Fok mentioned, his Lordship said he would touch the other side of the question: Christians should pay their pastors and teachers better, and he hoped that the time would soon come when the clergy would be better paid. He congratulated the boys on their work for the last term. He was very pleased with the report of the scripture examination, and was pleased to hear that there had never before been such keen competition for the prizes.

The BISHOP then distributed prizes to the following:—

Upper Schools:—Class Prizes—First—Tsang Sung; Second—Wan Tak Woh; Third—Lam Chak Yan. English Prizes (presented by W. L. Pattenden, Esq.) Upper (divided) Au Tin Shang and Lam Chak Yan. Second, Tong Sik. Geography and Map drawing:—First—Wan Tak Woh, Second—Li Po Ching. The Bishop's Divinity Prize:—Wong Heung Len.

Mr. Li Ping's Prize: Loh Tak Fuk. Preparatory School (Kowloon City) Class Prize: Upper—Hoh U Ming; Middle: Shom Wai On; Lower: Shom Wai Cheong. Prizes for Holy Scripture: Upper Class: Ho U Ming; Middle: Wong A. Wan; Lower: Shom Wai On and Fung Sik Hung (equal).

Conduct Prizes: Upper Class: Kwong Cheong Hing; Middle: Lam Chak Hong; Lower: Chung Yan Lap.

The prize in the Student Catechists class was obtained by Mr. Loh Yan Hin.

THE POLICE DANCE.

Members of the Hongkong Police Force held their annual dance at the City Hall last night, (Christmas Eve). As in previous years, it was well attended, and was from every point of view a decided success. What was lacking in the splendour of the decorations found ample compensation in the hospitality extended by the hosts to the 300 odd guests. An abundance of greenery and an ample supply of flags adorned the walls of the halls in requisition, and lent colour to the entrance. When the dance was decided on, preliminary arrangements were taken in hand by energetic committees who did not overlook any detail, and were thus responsible for an excellent evening's entertainment. To the music of Machado's string Band, the devotees of St. Terpsichore danced in St. George's Hall, while those who preferred a quiet game of cards found accommodation and accommodation in the old Chamber of Commerce room. Supper was served in St. Andrew's Hall, Mr. Lai Ying Ki, the caterer, giving every satisfaction.

There was a long and varied programme for the dancers which included three waltzes, two quadrilles; one highland schottische; two lancers; two barn dances; two waltz cotillions, a Strathspey reel; two Circassian circles; two polkas; two Caledonians; two valetas; a schottische; two d'alberts; a military two step; and a waltz and gallop.

The committees whose labours were crowned by such an enjoyable evening were:—

General Committee:—Messrs. Baker, Hanson, Withers, Parr, Gordon, Appleton, Wilson, Watt, Ogg, Paterson, McDonald, Cooper, Ferguson, Stuart, Brooks, Elicot and Lee (secretary).

Bar Committee:—Messrs. Ferguson, Elicot and Kendall.

Supper Committee:—Messrs. Lee and Parr. Card Committee:—Messrs. Wilson, Adlington and Bell.

Dancing started at nine o'clock, Messrs. Cooper and Stuart being the M.C's, and continued merrily until the small hours of this morning. The guests were well pleased with the Christmas hospitality extended them, and satisfied that the police could care for them when off, as well as on duty.

KOWLOON DOCK DANCE.

The staff of the Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Company, which is composed of a large Scottish element, gave another successful Hogmanay dance on Dec. 31. This way of "bringing in the new year" is very popular, and last night's dance was even more enjoyable than its predecessors. That is saying a good deal, for these festive gatherings have a reputation for good humour and general enjoyment not shared by any other in the colony. Almost 300 took the floor, a fact which speaks volumes for the hospitality of the staff and for their reputation as entertainers.

While floral decorations, appropriate to the season, adorned the institute entrance and the corridors, the walls presented an unusually bright appearance under their draping of bunting, a work effectively undertaken by several bluejackets from H.M.S. *Virago*. The dancing hall looked brilliant, with festoons of greenery suspended from the roof, flags on the walls and shields bearing crest, occupying the spaces between the windows. Conspicuous in the scheme of illumination was the Dock crest and the Scottish thistles opposite, while stars and other formations added to the general effect. In the bar room there was another of Mr. Duncan's excellent paintings, on which a happy looking man who had evidently imbibed rather freely held out a hand to a pillar box with which he wished to shake hands. The supper room was also tastefully decorated, while the cloak room was made more beautiful by Mr. Duncan's picture of Edinburgh Castle. A good service of lunches brought guests from Hongkong and about nine o'clock dancing was commenced to the music supplied by the band of the 13th Rajputs under Bandmaster Oke. The floor was perfect and added much to the pleasure of the evening. A programme of 20 dances, including several Scottish favourites, had been arranged, but, of course, one or two extras had to be given.

Shortly before midnight the company sat down to an excellent supper. Their attention was however diverted from the good things when the music of the band ceased and Bandmaster Oke, by a skilful manipulation of bells "rang out the old year and rang in the new." (In the stroke of twelve the lights which outlined the figures 1908 were switched off and showed 1909. Cordial greetings were expressed, and Mr. R. Mitchell, chief manager, who presided, voiced the pleasure of the staff in welcoming so many friends. Then it was "on with the dance," which was maintained with zest till nearly three o'clock. Messrs. Stewart and Crawford were assiduous in the discharge of their duties as M.C's.

The committee, who are to be congratulated on their adequate arrangements, was composed of Messrs. Stewart (chairman), J. C. Gow (secretary), R. Lapsley (treasurer), J. C. Crawford, Tully, Davison, Hand, J. Ramsay and R. Brown.

CHRISTMAS ROBBERIES.

During the holidays thieves are reported to have entered the Robinson Piano Co. store in Des Vœux Road, by breaking a pane of glass in one of the side windows and entering through the window. When the manager of the Company returned to the office on Dec. 28th he found the back door open and an examination revealed the fact that 100 Chinese gramophone records valued at \$120 had been stolen.

Another attempt was made to break into Diss Brothers' tailoring establishment, but was not attended with success, the thieves evidently being disturbed in their work.

Macao is to have another newspaper, the *Nova Vida*, to be edited by Mr. L. Ayres da Silva.

CHRISTMAS IN HONGKONG.

Christmastide in Hongkong passed very quietly. Fortunately the weather was bright and bracing and people took advantage of it to enjoy themselves to a large extent out of doors. On Xmas Day there were special services at all the churches which were well attended. There was the usual sport at the Happy Valley on Saturday afternoon, a two days, cricket match at the Hongkong Club, as well as other meetings. The "event of the season" in the minds of scores of children in the Colony is the Christmas tree annually given by Mrs. Watts and Miss Fairall at "Braeside." It was held on Boxing Day and the large number of children invited spent a thoroughly happy time, and a capital assortment of toys was, as usual, distributed among them. A Christmas tree was also given at the Matilda Hospital.

THE CHRISTMAS MAIL.

A curious feature of this year's Christmas Mail was that people did not seem anxious to claim their parcels. Notwithstanding the notice in the newspapers that the Post Office would be open on Christmas morning when parcels would be handed over to the addressees, not many took advantage of this facility. Yesterday, however, saw very few left of the big parcels mail, and when it is remembered that the parcels for Hongkong numbered 1,199 it will be realised that the postal officials have not been idle.

It is interesting to learn that the rat poison introduced have kept the rodents away from the packages. Puddings, as usual, constituted a large proportion of this mail, and though some had no other covering than brown paper they were not attacked by the rats. Practically the only accident was to a "Merry Widow" hat which was consigned from London. As the average parcel mail is about 350, the figure already mentioned, 1,199, indicates a heavy Christmas parcel mail, heavier indeed than in previous years.

Statistics of the letter post are not available, but there can be little doubt that the number dealt with this year shows an advance on previous years, there being no less than 140 bags for Hongkong.

THE NEW YEAR.

In the time honoured manner 1909 was ushered in, the ships in the harbour with their whistles adding to the chorus of sounds on land. A watchnight service took place at the Union Church, Dr. Wilder addressing the meeting, and the Scottish community at Kowloon Dock celebrated the occasion with their usual dance.

FAREWELL LUNCHEON TO THE AMERICAN JUDGE.

A complimentary luncheon was given at the Astor House, Shanghai, last week in honour of Mr. L. R. Wilfley by his friends on the eve of his departure for home. The chair was taken by Bishop Graves and among the guests were Sir Pelham Warren, K.C.M.G., H. M. Consul-General, M. Ratard, Consul-General for France, Mr. C. Denby, Consul-General of the United States, Mr. F. S. A. Bourne, Acting Judge of H. M. Supreme Court, Mr. D. Landale, Chairman of the Municipal Council, the Rev. C. E. Darwent, Messrs. H. P. Wilkinson, T. Morgan Phillips, J. D. Clark, C. Fink and A. Monestier. The hosts included:—Bishop Graves, Mr. J. F. Seaman, Mr. W. L. Merriman, Mr. H. De Gray, Mr. J. A. Thomas, Dr. F. L. Hawks Pott, Dr. F. E. Hinckley, Mr. A. Bassett, Mr. D. Coath, Mr. J. H. McMichael, Mr. C. C. Baldwin, Mr. J. C. Ferguson, Dr. J. B. Fearn, Rev. R. T. Bryan, Mr. H. O'Brien, Mr. W. W. Lookwood, Mr. A. S. Forbes, Mr. W. Dorsey, Mr. Thomas Cobbs, Mr. D. Magrath, Mr. O. H. Blake, Mr. B. G. Holt, Mr. G. P. Godsey, Mr. E. Kempfer, Mr. R. J. Solomon, and Mr. J. W. Rice. At the close of the luncheon, Bishop Graves proposed the health of the guest of the day, wishing him *bon voyage*. Judge Wilfley replied briefly in suitable terms.

CORRESPONDENCE.

CRUELTY TO CHICKENS.

AN APPEAL.

[TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG DAILY PRESS."]

Hongkong, 31st December, 1908.

DEAR SIR,—We wish to appeal through the local Press to all house-keepers in Hongkong, who have their chickens brought alive to their houses from the market or Dairy Farm.

If ladies only realized when they write "one chicken" in their Compradore book what suffering will almost certainly befall that wretched bird before it arrives at their houses, we feel sure that they would provide a proper basket for its transit.

How often one sees a coolie carrying the usual market basket with a chicken, its legs tied, resting precariously on the lid or hanging head downwards; and one shudders to think what must often happen to the chickens in the wild rush for seats in the Chinese portion of the tram, when basket is piled upon basket, and excited coolies fight for places.

We, therefore, appeal in the interests of humanity, to all house-keepers to either have their chickens killed in the market or Dairy Farm, or else to provide a separate basket for their transit, and to insist upon its being used.

Yours faithfully,

H. MAY.

D. HASTINGS.

L. POLLOCK.

A SHANGHAI WEDDING.

HOOPER-WALLACE.

A brilliant wedding was celebrated at Holy Trinity Cathedral last week, when Mr. E. R. Hooper (son of Sir William Roe and Lady Hooper) was married to Miss Gladys Maud Wallace, second daughter of Captain and Mrs. F. H. Wallace, of Shanghai. A large company of guests was present, among whom the Stock Exchange was strongly represented; and in addition to many carriages and motor cars the "Tantivy" coach was retained for the occasion to carry guests from the Cathedral to the subsequent reception. The interior of the Cathedral, particularly the chancel, was very effectively decorated and the service was accompanied by full music of choir and organ. The Rev. A. J. Walker officiated to marry the happy pair. The bride, who was given away by her father, was attended by four bridesmaids, the Misses Claude and Joyce Wallace, Miss Nina Sutherland and Miss Hazel Crawford. Mr. S. Wheeler acted as best man, and there were also thirteen ushers, Messrs. R. McGregor, R. I. Fearon, F. L. Fearon, W. C. Murray, E. B. S. Jacob, L. E. P. Jones, E. E. Deacon, L. J. C. Anderson, W. F. Wingrove, D. F. Wallace, K. J. McEuen, H. Edblad and W. G. Pirie.

The bride was dressed simply, but elegantly in plain clinging white satin, made Directoire style, with deep tucked yoke of chiffon and tight sleeves of the same material. The four little bridesmaids wore plain white satin frocks and large white hats. They carried bouquets of poinsettia, making a very effective colour scheme of red and white. Mrs. Crawford's gown was pearl gray, Empire style, and she wore a lovely large white hat trimmed in shaded roses of mauve and purple.

The reception after the ceremony in the Cathedral was held at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Crawford, 11 Siccawei Road, which was kindly lent for the occasion; and the bride and bridegroom subsequently left for the Tahn Lake in a houseboat, where the honeymoon will be spent.

Mr. John M. Darrah, the American Postal Agent at Shanghai, was on Christmas Eve the recipient of a handsome silver cigar cabinet which was presented to him as a token of appreciation by a large number of the leading American merchants of Shanghai as a mark of their appreciation of the excellent work done by him as the American postal agent.

THE SEIZURE OF THE S.S. "TAI ON."

APPARENTLY DUE TO A MIS-TRANSLATION.

Our Canton correspondent writes under the date of the 28th inst.:

I wired you this morning that the steamer *Tai On* was seized by the Chinese Authorities and taken to Canton. It appears that on the 8th of July last the s.s. *Tai On*, flying the British flag, collided with a junk carrying the Kin Wah Yuk Theatrical Troupe near Ang Ko Tsui. The junk sank and eight persons were drowned. The proprietor of the theatrical troupe, who is also the owner of the junk, instituted an action against the owner of the steamer *Tai On* for the loss of eight lives and property. The Viceroy communicated with the British Consul, requesting that the case be tried according to Treaty Regulations. The British Consul replied that he was not aware of any British vessel bearing that name being registered at the Consulate. The Viceroy afterwards communicated with the Governor of Hongkong to ascertain if the s.s. *Tai On* was a British-owned steamer. His Excellency the Governor is said to have answered that the *Tai On* is not a British steamer and that he was unable to state what nationality the vessel belonged to. The Governor is further reported to have said that if the *Tai On* is flying a British flag, she had no right to do so, as it would be a fraudulent act.

On receipt of the Governor's reply the Viceroy immediately instructed the Commissioner of Customs at Kongmoon to detain the *Tai On* on her arrival at the port. The Commissioner replied that he could not detain the vessel because she had taken out British papers at the British Consulate. This roused the ire of the Viceroy as the statements made by the Commissioner did not agree with the replies of the Governor of Hongkong and the British Consul.

On the 26th instant the Viceroy instructed Admiral Li Tsun to dispatch the gunboats *Kong Tai* and *Kong Ching* in charge of Colonel Lam Kwok Cheung and sub-Prefect Wong Yan Tong to proceed to Chu-tau-shan to seize the *Tai On*. In the afternoon they sighted the steamer steaming up to them. The gunboats hoisted signals requesting the vessel to stop, but she took no notice of the signals and proceeded on her way. The two gunboats then gave chase and hoisted other signals indicating that, if she refused to stop, they would open fire on her. On seeing the latter signals the *Tai On* slowed down and dropped anchor. The two deputies boarded her and told the Captain that they were authorised by His Excellency Viceroy Chang to seize the vessel and take her to Canton. The Captain made no objection, steam launches were dispatched to the *Tai On* to convey all her passengers to their various destinations. The *Tai On* was then escorted to Canton by the two gunboats and arrived here yesterday morning.

Some sort of preliminary inquiry was held at the Admiral's Yamen in the afternoon in the presence of Admiral Li Tsun and a Deputy from the Viceroy's Foreign Affairs Department.

It is reported that the foreign officers of the steamer, when questioned by Admiral Li and the Viceroy's Deputy, stated that the steamer *Tai On* was not owned by foreign capitalists, but owned by Sunning people surnamed Yü, and that the comrade of the steamer bore the same surname.

The above is a Chinese version of the story.

Later in the afternoon I interviewed Captain Lawrence of the steamer *Tai On* who said that the steamer left Hongkong at 7 p.m. on the 25th instant for Kongmoon, Kamchuk and Kau Kong. The *Tai On* arrived at Kongmoon on the 26th instant at about 6 a.m. and left that port for Kamchuk at 9.55 a.m. While passing Chu-Tau-Shan (Plover Island) at 11.55 a.m. the *Tai On* was stopped by two Chinese gunboats named *Kong Tai*, and *Kong Ching*. Several Chinese officials and a body of sailors armed with revolvers boarded the steamer. One of the officials told Captain Lawrence that they had been authorized by the Viceroy to seize the *Tai On* and take her to Canton. Captain Lawrence protested against this action and told the officials that the *Tai On* is a British steamer

and owned by British subjects. He asked the officials to state their reasons for seizing the vessel, but they refused to do so. The officials said that they had come to carry out orders given by the Viceroy and that both the British Consul and the Governor of Hongkong had refused to recognise the *Tai On* as a British vessel. The officials then sent for several Chinese boats, and after the passengers bound for Kamchuk and Kow-Kong were discharged into the boats, the officials gave orders to the gunboats to escort the *Tai On* to Canton. The three vessels arrived at Whampoa at 9 p.m. on the 26th instant and left for Canton at day-break the following morning. None of the foreign officers and the Chinese crew have left the steamer. None of them went to the Admiral's Yamen.

Judging from what Captain Lawrence told me it is quite clear that the s.s. *Tai On* is a British owned vessel. However, there must be a loose brick somewhere to cause such confusion. It may be that the Viceroy gave the wrong name of the steamer when communicating with the British Consul and the Governor of Hongkong. Another point which might give rise to some confusion in the matter is that the mandarin translation of the two characters 泰安 into English is *Tai An*. Naturally if the dispatches bore the last mentioned translation of the two characters both the British Consul and the Governor of Hongkong were doubtless quite correct in replying that to their knowledge there was no British vessel bearing that name.

The s.s. *Tai On* we learned, on inquiry at the Harbour Office on Dec. 28th, is a British steamer owned by the *Tai On* s.s. Company. She is trading between Hongkong and Kongmoon on the West River, and on her last trip to Kongmoon, it is reported that she collided with a Chinese theatrical junk and sank it. As a result of the collision thirteen people were drowned, and their relatives and the rescued junk people claimed \$4,000 as compensation from the owners of the steamer. The owners declined to entertain this amount, but offered to pay \$1,000. This was not deemed sufficient by the claimants and the result has been the seizure of the *Tai On* by two Chinese gunboats. At the time of the arrest of the steamer she had not her register on board, it being the custom, we understand, for her to leave it at her first port of call and obtain it on her return trip to Hongkong. The absence of the register would no doubt lead Chinese officials to the conclusion that the vessel was not British. The *Tai On* is commanded by Captain Lawrence and carries European officers. The *Tai On* has been released, the Chinese Authorities having satisfied themselves that she is a British steamer.

THE BOYCOTT OF THE S.S. "FATSHAN."

STIRRING UP ANTI-FOREIGN FEELING.

Our Canton correspondent writes:

The local papers say that the Portuguese Consul, in a communication to the Viceroy, states that the case will be tried at the Portuguese Consulate, and requests His Excellency to delegate deputies who understand English and French to attend at the consulate on the day of the trial to watch the proceedings. The Consul further requests the Viceroy to prohibit the Self-Government Association and the Local Press from continuing to discuss the matter and adds that if further meetings on the subject are held or opinions published prejudicial to the trial of the accused, it will be impossible to regard the evidence for the prosecution without suspicion.

His Excellency the Viceroy is said to have replied as follows: "Hitherto in all international cases of this kind both foreign and Chinese Authorities have always relied on, and recognised, the evidence of Chinese undertakers. In Tientsin, Hankow and elsewhere there are official records of similar cases. The Magistrate's undertakers examined the corpse and it is proved that there were wounds. The accused surrendered himself and appeared so promptly that surely he must have kicked the man. If he did not do so why should he appear to answer the charge?" The Viceroy asks the

Portuguese Consul to fix an early date for the trial so that the grievance may be redressed.

On Christmas Day the Self-Government Association had an excited meeting regarding the *Fatshan* incident. There was, as usual, a very large attendance. Many hostile speeches were made by the speakers—Tam Sui Po, Chan Yu Shing, Kwan Cho Tin, Lam Chi Cheong, Lai Chor Choi, &c. They decided to boycott all goods bearing Butterfield and Swire's chop and also all their steamers. Passengers from the steamer *Fatshan* "will be branded so as to be recognised by all." It was also suggested that "a good hiding" be given to those travelling by that vessel. The members of the Association say that they are upholding China's dignity, whatever action the Government might take. One of the speakers quoted the Hongkong Hotel murder case in his speech and said that the murderer was sentenced to death, although there was no direct evidence to prove that the prisoner did kill the woman. The British Consul, the Viceroy's Deputy and the Nam Hoi Magistrate were all denounced as being unable to carry out their duties properly.

The local press have agreed to suppress the publication of all hostile speeches so as to avoid giving excuse to the foreign consuls for requesting the Viceroy to prohibit these mass meetings. According to the Police regulations enforced sometime ago no meetings can be held without the consent of the police authorities. It is therefore evident that the responsibility rests with the officials, and the decisions reached at the meeting are therefore open to the inference that they have the tacit approval of the officials.

Public feeling in this matter has been growing stronger and stronger every day and has practically eclipsed the Japanese boycott agitation. Meetings are being held by many *Kai-fongs* and great animation prevails at every meeting place. Placards are posted and the public feeling kept at boiling point.

Telegrams are being sent abroad to start a boycott proper against Messrs. Butterfield and Swire.

One again hears of the uncivilized expression *Sat Fan Kwai* ("Kill European devils") when walking in the City. What the outcome of all this will be, if things are allowed to go on, nobody knows, but it is clear that the Chi-chi-Wui are determined to push matters to a crisis. At this time of the year, trouble may be expected. The rowdy and the needy are always ready to join any movement calculated to bring disorder so that they can gather something in the fray. If this anti-foreign element is allowed to publicly brag much longer as it is doing now I fear the officials will find it quite a nasty affair to deal with. They are using the *Fatshan* incident as a platform for the display of the false motto "China for the Chinese only and at any cost," but in reality the main object of the cunning leading members is to make money under cover of justice and fairplay by robbing their own countrymen in getting them to subscribe funds to keep the ball rolling in matters of this description.

There has never been in recent years such a recrudescence of anti-foreign feeling as that prevailing just now.

The long-expected crisis was reached on New Year's Day. Placards had done their work and by 11 a.m. crowds were gathering in the neighbourhood of the Canton-Macao Steamboat Company's Wharf.

At the last meeting held on the 31st December, presided over by Kong Sew Chew, the anti-foreign agitator of Ho Nam who has prominently identified himself with the whole movement since its inception, many hostile speeches were made, and it was decided to take "firm action" against those who dared to patronize the *Fatshan*.

The Police officers, who attended every one of these meetings, never interfered.

The crowds gradually increased and by 1.30 p.m. the mob became riotous and started to pelt stones at the passengers who were going on board.

Captain Lloyd found it prudent to leave the wharf and made for the middle of the stream near the British gunboats. Meanwhile the British Consul was communicated with and a company of bluejackets

having boarded the *Fatshan*, the steamer made her way back to the wharf and no further incident occurred.

The Chinese Authorities meanwhile were also requested to maintain order, and a body of braves were detailed for duty at the wharf. They did not, however, even attempt to disperse the crowd which remained till the *Fatshan* left for Hongkong. The steamer left with hardly any Chinese passengers.

None of the placards were removed till late at night.

The incident is by no means closed, and there will be further developments unless the Viceroy takes prompt action in the matter.

On Saturday the Viceroy had placards posted up all over the city counselling the people to refrain from demonstrations against the British ship. It is pointed out in the placard that the allegation (of fatally kicking a Chinese passenger) was not against a British subject, but against a Portuguese.

The British cruiser *Alacrity* and the torpedo boats *Fame* and *Handy* are at Canton in addition to the small gunboats usually stationed on the river.

All was quiet on Saturday and the Canton-Macao Steamboat Co's steamer *Honam* left in the evening with a full cargo and the usual crowd of Chinese passengers.

THE JAPANESE MINISTER TO ENGLAND.

A large number of residents accepted the invitation of the Consul for Japan and Mrs. Funatsu to an "At Home" on the *Hirano-Maru* on Dec. 29th to meet Mr. T. Kato, G.C.M.G., who is on his way to England as Japanese Ambassador, accompanied by Mrs. Kato. Mr. Kato has twice occupied the post of Foreign Minister, and has on a previous occasion represented his country for five years at the Court of St. James. Mr. Kato is regarded in Japan as "one of the junior statesmen with a bright future." He has many friends among English statesmen including Sir Edward Grey, the present Minister of Foreign Affairs. Of Mrs. Kato Sir Claude Macdonald said at the recent banquet of the British Society in Tokyo—"It may interest my hearers to know that when the Royal Family of England heard that Mr. Kato had been appointed as Japanese Representative in London they expressed a desire that Mrs. Kato, whom they knew and liked so much, would accompany her husband. Anybody who has the proud privilege of knowing Mrs. Kato will agree with me when I say that she is a fitting helpmate to her husband, and a lady endowed with the most gracious sweetness of character combined with a very great deal of common sense." Miss Kato is accompanying her parents.

The ship was gaily decorated and the hospitality shown the visitors on board was much appreciated.

His Excellency and Mrs. Kato were the principal guests at a dinner at Government House last night.

COMPULSORY EDUCATION FOR CHINA.

The Board of Education has discussed "the urgent necessity" of introducing educational facilities for young children. The following propositions were brought forward:—

(1) A department for the education of children over four years of age shall first be established in Peking and in all large district towns at which all children over the above mentioned age must attend.

(2) No difference shall be made between the sexes at this tender age. This is in accordance with the Japanese method.

(3) When the children reach the age of seven they shall be transferred to small primary schools, and boys and girls shall then be separated.

(4) The Government shall establish primary girls' schools.

(5) Parents will be held to blame if their children do not attend these schools.

(6) The Board of the Interior shall make the above clearly understood by the populace of the Capital.

CANTON AND THE OPIUM QUESTION.

OLD REGULATIONS A FAILURE—NEW ONES INSTITUTED.

The following is a translation of a proclamation issued yesterday:—

"This proclamation is issued by the Provincial Treasurer, the Literary Chancellor, the Provincial Judge, the Salt Commissioner and the Chief Superintendent of Police to inform the public that on the 25th day of the 1st moon of the 33rd year of Kwang Su we received a dispatch from His Excellency Chow Fook, former Viceroy of Liang-Kwang, instructing us to issue licenses to persons who are habitual opium smokers, in order to prevent illicit smoking. This is in accordance with regulation No. 2 made by the Central Government for the suppression of opium smoking, as approved by the Throne. There are two kinds of licenses, one being issued to people over 60 and the other to those under 60 years of age. All licenses will have to be renewed annually when the amount consumed by the licensee must be reduced with a view to his finally weaning himself of the habit at the end of the fixed period of 10 years. The object of issuing these licenses is to prevent a person from consuming more opium than is specified in his license. From inquiries made after we had issued these licenses last year we discovered that many people had been purchasing opium without a license and re-selling it to others, and we find that this practice is still going on. We also learnt that some people make use of the license to purchase opium several times a day while others purchase a larger quantity than that specified in the license. The regulations are thus rendered practically nugatory. We have therefore instructed the deputies appointed for the suppression of opium smoking and the principal association formed with the same object to make certain new rules and have them printed on all the wooden licenses. These rules have been submitted to His Excellency the Viceroy who has approved them.

This proclamation is to inform the public that the new wooden licenses are now ready for distribution and we trust that all persons who are habitual opium smokers will call at the Police Station in their respective districts to exchange their old licenses for new ones and abide by the rules printed thereon. Vendors of prepared opium are also requested to adhere strictly to these rules in the transaction of their business. Those who act in defiance of these rules, whether he be a licensee or a dealer in prepared opium, will be severely fined, and no leniency will be shown the offender. Do not disobey this, but tremblingly obey it.

The following are regulations for obtaining licenses:—

1. All opium smokers are requested to call at the police stations in their respective districts to obtain licenses and no charges will be made for same.

2. Old licenses will be exchanged for new ones and licenses will be granted to persons not holding any. Enquiries will be made before granting new licenses to ascertain the identity of the smoker.

3. Old licenses held on fictitious names will only be exchanged if the smoker finds a substantial surety in the person of an official, gentry merchant, &c. Any infringement of this clause will render the offender liable to arrest and a "compulsory confinements cure treatment" will be enforced for 10 years. Men over 60 years of age will not be imprisoned, but fined.

4. Confirmed smokers of over 60 years of age will have their allowance reduced by 10 per cent on the new licenses and younger smokers will have theirs reduced by 20 per cent.

5. Licenses can only be renewed at the place where the original licence was issued.

6. Those who have already infringed the opium regulations, and those who have completed their course of compulsory treatment at the institution for curing opium smoking cannot obtain licenses.

Three months' hard labour will be the punishment for those who obtain a license under a false name.

Monetary fines will be substituted for delinquents who are too weak for hard labour.

7. No licenses will be granted to directors, professors, and teachers of schools and colleges, students, military people and the police force. Double punishment is provided for infringement in these classes.

8. No licenses will be granted to public houses and junks.

9. Licenses issued to inmates of the following public houses that have ceased business viz:— opium dens, fantan houses, barber shops, watch houses, gate keepers, ti-poa houses, coolie and chair coolie houses, latrines, nunneries and monasteries—must bear the photographs of the smoker. These applicants must send in three photographs—one to be attached to the license, one to be deposited in the police station and one to be sent to the Bureau for the suppression of opium smoking. Licenses will not be granted if applicants fail to bring their photographs with them.

[Note.—This rule is rather incomprehensible.

I think that, in a round-about way, it indicates an intention to require the higher class of opium smokers to furnish photographs next year when renewing their licenses.]

10. Nobody is allowed to purchase more opium than the amount specified on the license.

11. Any person who visits Canton and who intends to remain here for some time must furnish substantial surety to obtain a license; if the person be an official he must get a brother officer as surety, if a merchant, he must get a shop to stand security for him. No license will be granted to any person who is on a temporary visit.

12. All licensees must adhere strictly to the regulations printed on the license. Those daring enough to infringe the regulations will be severely fined.

13. Each prepared opium shop must provide itself, with a special chop, 3½ fan long and 1 fan, 7 li wide, to be stamped on the license when people call at their shop to purchase opium, so as to prevent a smoker buying twice with the same license.

ARRIVAL OF THE "HIRANO MARU."

The new N.Y.K. twin screw steamer *Hirano Maru*, one of six sister ships built or building by the Kawasaki Shipbuilding Co. of Kobe and the Mitsu Bishi Dockyard, Nagasaki, arrived in port last week. The new vessel, which was launched at Nagasaki on the 21st April, is commanded by Captain H. Fraser, one of the oldest commanders in the Company's service, and he has every reason to be proud of his handsome craft, which is designed for the European service, and is now making her maiden voyage. The general comfort of passengers has been kept in view throughout and leaves nothing to be desired. There is accommodation for fifty-eight first class, twenty-eight second class, twelve special and one hundred and forty steerage passengers, while there is also special accommodation for twenty-five first class and third class passengers. All the cabins are neatly and cosily fitted up, and the decorations and fittings are of the latest designs and of a first class nature. The saloon is a splendid apartment and is well lighted and ventilated. The smoking rooms, social hall, drawing room, music room, barber's room, dark room for amateur photographers, etc. are all that could be wished for, and in addition there is a fully equipped surgery where all cases of sickness can be treated. The laundry, galleys, pantries, bakery, etc., are models. The lavatories and baths, showers, etc., are also a feature of the vessel. She is fully supplied with fire fighting appliances, life boats, rafts, belts, etc., and the latest designs of navigating instruments are carried. The cargo space is ample and for the handling of heavy weights she has four large derricks and cranes, one of which is capable of lifting forty tons. The following are the dimensions of the vessel:—Length, 482 feet 9 inches; moulded, 465 feet; breadth, 56 feet; depth, 34 feet 6 inches; tonnage gross, 8,770 tons; horse power, 7,300; speed sixteen knots. She has three decks and her propelling machinery is of the latest and best description. She is built entirely of steel and is lighted throughout with electric lights.

COMPANY MEETING.

"SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST" LIMITED.

The annual ordinary general meeting of the "South China Morning Post," Limited, was held in the offices of Dr. Noble, at Bank Buildings, Queen's Road Central, yesterday when there were present Dr. J. W. Noble (chairman), Mr. J. Scott Harston (director), Mr. Geo. T. Lloyd (general manager and editor), Messrs. T. Petrie, E. B. Ayris, J. McCubbin, and E. W. Terry.

The CHAIRMAN said:—Gentlemen,—The report and accounts having been in your hands for some days, I will with your permission take them as read. I have nothing to add to that which is embodied therein as the figures set forth fully explain the position of the Company. I will, however, take this opportunity to say that you as shareholders are not doing your duty to the Company or to yourselves as stockholders in the concern. You won't even attend our annual meetings and express your views as to the management, in censure or otherwise, whilst during the year you exhibit the same apathetic spirit, not lifting a finger to aid in the direction, or to advance the interests of your own property. If it be your desire that your property shall increase in value you should all help at least a little—good years are not due to luck, but are the result of constant work and hard work too, and you should all bear your share of the burden. In addition to giving you the news which may be current from to-day, the policy of your paper will in the future continue to be one which in the opinion of the management will result in the greatest good to the greatest number. It is interesting to note the change which is gradually taking place in the attitude of the Chinese mind toward the Press. It furnishes food for thought and gives rise to much conjecture and speculation. It would surprise you greatly if you knew to what extent our editorial rooms are from time to time furnished with excellent copy of Chinese origin, a recent communication ending with: "Three cheers for Old China and the power of the Press." That the Chinese should be so attracted is gratifying to the management, showing as it does a keen appreciation of your paper, in a quarter from whence such or any approbation is unlooked for. Before proposing the adoption of the report and accounts I will be pleased to answer any questions you may ask.

There being no questions, the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption of the report and accounts as presented. Mr. J. M. McCUBBIN seconded and the motion was agreed to.

Mr. T. PETRIE proposed the re-election of Dr. J. W. Noble and Messrs. G. C. Moxon and J. Scott Harston as directors for the year ending 31st August, 1909.

Mr. E. B. AYRIS seconded, and this was carried.

The CHAIRMAN: That is all the business, gentlemen; thank you for your attendance. I am sorry I cannot say dividend warrants will be ready to-morrow.

THE EWO COTTON SPINNING AND WEAVING CO., LTD.

The thirteenth ordinary meeting of shareholders of the Ewo Cotton Spinning and Weaving Company, Ltd., was held on December 13th at the offices of the General Manager (Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co., Ltd.) Mr. David Landale presided.

The notice convening the meeting having been read,

The Chairman said:—Gentlemen,—Following the usual procedure at meetings in Shanghai, I propose, with your approval, to take the report and accounts for the year ended 31st October, 1908, which have been in your hands for some days, as read.

At the last annual meeting, I remarked that the outlook could not be called brilliant, but that there were indications that the Yarn trade was assuming a more normal course and I have now to inform you that during the first six months of our financial year, the demand for our spinning left a great deal to be desired, but, in the early summer months, the tide turned

and enabled us to gradually improve our margin in profit. At the beginning of August, the situation appeared to warrant our again working the mill at night, and the necessary hands having been secured, day and night work was commenced on the 17th of that month, since when it has been continued without interruption and materially helped the result for the twelve months under review. As you can well understand, night and day work taxes our European hands to the utmost, and the General Managers desire to take this opportunity of expressing their appreciation of the able manner in which the staff has overcome the difficulties of keeping the mill running continuously, and of securing the record productions, which they have done, and which testify that the machinery is in first class order. (Applause.) I am happy to say that the outlook for the immediate future is encouraging, our production having been sold for the first four months of our financial year, that is, to the end of February, at satisfactory day and night working profits on our purchases of cotton, which cover all sales, and, considering the comparatively small stocks in Shanghai of Indian and Japanese yarns, combined with the increasing consumption of yarn made in China, I venture to express the hope that we shall be able to continue to run your mill day and night, and come before you at this time next year with a report at least as satisfactory as the one now under discussion. (Applause.) During the year, cotton was of a fair average quality, but the crop of better grades was short, and the deficit was made good with importations from India. I trust that the proposed appropriation of the balance at credit of profit and loss account will meet with your approval, and that you will consider a dividend of Tls. 5 per share satisfactory. The General Managers and Consulting Committee are of opinion that it is advisable to add Tls. 135,000 to Repairs and Renewals Account, the balance at credit of that account, which, as you will remember, was inaugurated in 1905, being reduced to Tls. 7,702.34 on 31st October. The writing down of furniture will, I feel sure, commend itself to you. On Special Repairs and Renewals, the sum of Tls. 15,574.53 has been expended; this amount besides covering the cost of numerous improvements, includes the cost of mechanical stokers for the four boilers at the mill. The stokers have been in working order for some weeks, and in the saving of fuel, not to speak of a considerable abatement of smoke, will return good interest on the money spent. I do not know that any other items call for special comment, with perhaps, the exceptions of interest and fire insurance, which, owing to our working with comparatively small stocks of yarn, compare very favourably with the expenditure in the previous year, interest being practically one half what it was in the preceding twelve months. I shall be pleased to answer any questions that may be asked.

There were no questions and on the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr. Shaw, the report and accounts as presented were adopted.

The Chairman proposed that a dividend of Tls. 5 per share be paid out of last year's profits. Mr. Crichton seconded and the motion was carried.

Mr. H. J. Clark proposed that the Consulting Committee as at present constituted be re-elected for the current year.—On this being seconded by Mr. Brodie A. Clark the motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. G. R. Wingrove was re-elected as the company's auditor on a proposal by Mr. Samson, seconded by Mr. Drakeford.

The Chairman thanked shareholders for their attendance and said that dividend warrants would be ready on the following day.

A vote of thanks to the Chairman brought the meeting to a close.

We learn that the plague epidemic at Tongshan, North China, is now practically at an end, only sporadic cases having recently been reported.

A Peking newspaper states that the messages of condolence sent by the foreign nations to China in her recent national bereavement have so touched the Prince Regent that His Imperial Highness intends to send a Prince of the blood to the various countries to return thanks after the hundred days of mourning.

CANTON.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

December 29th.

THE FATALITY AT SAMSHUI.

The body of Captain Mackintosh of the British American Tobacco Company's steamer *Bramtoco*, who was drowned about a week ago at Samshui, has been found. An inquiry has been held at the British Consulate and the verdict was:—Accidental death through drowning.

MAIL BOAT PIRATED.

A slipper boat of the Imperial Chinese Post Office carrying mails regularly between Canton and Chan Cheun was pirated close by a military station on the morning of the 27th instant while on her way to Canton to deliver the inland mails for the Hongkong day steamer. Over twenty pirates took part in the piracy. They carried away all the mail bags. The mails were in charge of three Chinese officers of the Post Office. One of them swam ashore and reported the piracy to the military station; another who came to Canton to report the affair to the Postal Commissioner was seriously wounded on the head. The third man is still missing. It is surmised that he was killed by the pirates and his body thrown into the river. So far no arrest has been made.

FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY FLOATED.

H.E. Chang Pei Sze, formerly Minister of Agriculture, Labour and Mines in the Kwangtung Province, has floated a Fire Insurance Company under the style of Kwangtung Fire Insurance Company Limited. The capital of the Company is \$500,000 divided into 50,000 shares of \$10 each.

VISIT OF AN AMERICAN PROFESSOR.

A prominent American professor arrived here yesterday. He carries with him letters of introduction to the high Chinese Officials from H.E. Wu Ting Fang. He is visiting all the Government Colleges here. The Provincial Chancellor has notified the Directors of all the Colleges to give the professor a grand reception at their respective colleges.

ARMED ROBBERY IN THE CITY.

A daring robbery was reported to the police as having occurred at 236, Queen's Road Central, early on New Year's morning. Six men, armed with knives, gained access to this shop and terrorised the inmates living on the ground floor. Taken by surprise the residents could offer no resistance, and submitted quietly to being bound and gagged. The robbers then set to work to collect valuables. The noise they made, however, alarmed the people on the floor above. A police whistle was blown and the robbers decamped. A suspect was arrested shortly afterwards by Chief Detective Inspector Hanson, and three more men have been arrested and charged.

MANILA AND THE CATTLE TRADE.

A SHIPMASTER ARRESTED FOR CRUELTY.

The complaints of the collector of customs against the cruelty practiced on certain cattle ships in the business of transporting cattle from the China coast to Manila has come to a head, says the *Cablenews*, by the commencement of proceedings in the Court, of First Instance against F. W. Bull, the master of the steamship *Standard* which, on the 2nd day of December steamed into Manila with 677 heads of cattle without providing suitable means for securing such animals while in transit, so as to avoid cruelty and unnecessary suffering to them.

It is charged that Captain Bull failed to provide stalls for the animals in transit and suitable means for tying and securing them. They were tied by their noses and the result was many of them reached Manila dead or dying and others in a mutilated condition.

These charges were filed by the prosecuting attorney and Mr. Bull was arrested on a warrant issued by the court and at once arraigned. He gave bail in \$300 to appear for trial on the 26th inst.

LOCAL AND DISTRICT EVENTS, 1908.

JANUARY.

- 1—Cameron Highlanders arrive in Hongkong. "At Home" on the Japanese cruiser *Naniwa*. Pollard's Lilliputians at the City Hall.
- 3—Cameron Highlanders entertained.
- 5—Bishop Lander's New Year address at City Hall.
- 6—H.E. the Governor opened a new building at Wongneichong for the Asile de la Sainte Enfance.—Riesha coolie strike.
- 10—Engineers' and Shipbuilders' Ball.
- 12—Governor of Macao visits Hongkong.
- 15—Messrs. Jardine Matheson's steamer *Yik Sing* stranded off The Brothers.
- 18—Kowloon Cricket Club foundation stone laid by Mr. Mody.
- 19—End of Shipping war between the N.D.L. Orient Line and the N.Y.K. on the Bangkok run, the latter agreeing to withdraw entirely from the run on terms satisfactory to both parties.
- 23—Professor Fluno lectured on "Christian Science."
- 30—Annual meeting China Association. Launch of the Dock Company's towboat *David Gillies*.—Withdrawal of British gunboats from the West River patrol on settlement of claims against the Chinese Government for piratical attacks on British craft.

FEBRUARY.

- 3—Hongkong defeated Shanghai by 3 goals to nil in the interport football contest.
- 4—United Services also defeated the visitors, the final score being 1-0.—Kowloon Pigeon Show.
- 5—H.E. the Governor presents prizes at the Royal Sanitary Institute.
- 6—*Tatsu Maru No. II* arrested by Chinese near Macao, for alleged smuggling of arms into Chinese territory.—Legislative Council pass a resolution of sympathy with the Portuguese nation on the assassination of the King and Crown Prince.
- 9—An explosion on the s.s. *Nerite* at Kowloon Docks resulting in the death of two Chinese.
- 11—Opening day of annual race meeting.
- 12—Mr. William Danby died at the Government Civil Hospital, the result of an accident.
- 20—Hongkong A.D.C. produce "The Liars."—Baluchi sports at Kowloon.
- 24—Annual Meeting Hongkong Chamber of Commerce.
- 26—Horticultural Society's Annual Show.

MARCH.

- 5—Important Legislative Council meeting at which the new Public Health Ordinance was introduced.
- 13—Mr. Mody presents \$35,000 for the erection of a building to be used as a mission to seamen.
- 15—Mr. Rennie on behalf of Mr. H. N. Mody communicated to the Government an offer of \$150,000 towards the cost of founding a university in Hongkong.
- 16—Dispute between China and Japan regarding the seizure of the *Tatsu-maru* settled, China agreeing to release the ship, salute the Japanese flag hoisted on the ship, pay compensation and punish the officials responsible for the seizure.
- 17—Mr. Murray Stewart elected to represent the Chamber of Commerce on the Legislative Council in the absence of the Hon. Mr. E. A. Hewett.
- 18—Death of the Portuguese Consul-General Romano.
- 19—Chinese flagship fired a salute of 21 guns to the *Tatsu-maru*, and the Japanese Consul hoisted the flag to the mainmast to indicate the vessel's release from capture.
- 20—Vice-Admiral the Hon. Sir Hedworth Lambton, C.B., arrived in Hongkong.
- 21—Admiral Moore left Hongkong for England.
- 22—Sir Robert Hart, Inspector-General of Customs, left Peking on twelve months' leave of absence.
- 25—Death in England of Mr. F. O. Seaton, British Vice-Consul at Macao from 1898 to 1906.
- 27—Chinese property owners present Mr. J. Orange with an address, on his leaving the colony.
- 28—Hongkong Regatta.

- 29—The Hon. Dr. Ho Kai re-appointed an unofficial member of the Legislative Council for a further term of six years.
- 30—Chinese at Canton resolved to boycott Japanese goods as a protest against what they regarded as the humiliating conditions of settlement in the *Tatsu-maru* affair.
- 31—Sir John Jordan, H.B.M.'s Minister at Peking, arrived in Hongkong.

APRIL.

- 4—Four suspects arrested in connection with a murder at Shatin.
- 5—Closing cruise of Corinthian Yacht Club.
- 8—Cameron Highlanders leave Hongkong.
- 14—Suicide of Mr. A. H. Rennie.
- 16—Junk Bay Flour Mill suspended operations.
- 18—Drawing of lots by proprietors of opium divans at Shanghai to determine which shops should be closed by July 1st. 359 establishments were drawn, being one-fourth of the whole.—Hongkong Football Club win the shield.
- 20—Hongkong Milling Co. goes into liquidation.—Lusitano Club annual athletic sports.—Signs of a serious rising noted in Annam.
- 24—Imperial Edict issued disranking Roman Catholic missionaries.
- 25—V.R.C. annual sports meeting.
- 30—Important debate on the Public Health and Building Ordinance in the Hongkong Legislative Council.

MAY.

- 2—Centenary celebrations at Italian Convent, Hongkong.—New Chinese Post Office opened at Swatow.—Hongkong Cricket Club defeated the L.R.C. in the annual tennis match by 60 games to 39.
- 5—Imperial Government telegraphed to Hongkong stating that steps must be taken to close the opium dens in Hongkong.
- 7—Lady Lugard left for England owing to indisposition.—Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C., is appointed a member of the Legislative Council during the absence of the Hon. Mr. H. E. Pollock K. C.
- 8—Hongkong Schools' annual sports.
- 14—Unveiling of memorial in King's Park to the sailors of French destroyer *Fronde* who lost their lives during the typhoon of 18th September, 1905.
- 16—Senhor Continho, having resigned the Governorship of Macao, left for Europe.
- 28—Strong protest made by the Hongkong Legislative Council against the Home Government's peremptory orders to close the opium divans.

JUNE.

- 3—Retirement of Consul-General Mansfield of Canton.
- 4—Discussion on Public Health and Buildings Ordinance in Legislative Council.
- 6—Colonel Martin, P.M.O. of Hongkong, drowned accidentally in Lake Chuzenji, Japan.
- 8—Wreck of the Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboat Co.'s s.s. *Powan* off Lantau Island.
- 10—Japanese unveiled a memorial to the Russian dead at Port Arthur.
- 15—Ratepayers meeting at Amoy decided to close the opium divans within two months of the issue of a proclamation.
- 18—Important paper by Mr. C. Clementi on opium smoking in China and Hongkong published.
- 19—s.s. *Loongsang* collided with a junk, two of the junk's crew being drowned.
- 20—Great flood up the West River doing incalculable damage.
- 22—Commodore Stokes received intimation of his promotion to the rank of Rear-Admiral.
- 23—Important decision of Chief Justice in the Shatin murder trial.
- 26—Telegram received that H.M. the King had been pleased to confer on the Hon. Mr. Wei Ynk the C.M.G., decoration and to appoint Mr. J. Dyer Ball a Companion of the Imperial Service Order.
- 27—A Marine Court of Inquiry reprimanded the Captain and Second Officer for the loss of the s.s. *Powan*.

JULY.

- 1—Suicide of Captain Ross Cox of the Indo-China Steam Navigation Co.
- 2—Government donate a sum of \$30,000 towards the relief of the sufferers by the floods in South China.
- 4—American Independence Day celebrations in Hongkong.

- 5—Death of Mr. H. van Varchmin, German Consul for Pakhoi and Hoihow, at Peak Hospital.
- 9—Outbreak of cholera at Canton.
- 10—Bazaar organised by Chinese held in Hongkong in aid of the relief of sufferers by the great flood along the West River.
- 11—Formal opening of Kowloon Cricket Club Pavilion; Mr. Mody, the President, presented with a silver souvenir.
- 14—Death of Mr. Guy Blood.
- 18—Coxswain and crew of the steam launch *Kam Shun* presented with medals for saving life at the wreck of the *Powan*.—A fire in Canton destroyed 48 houses.
- 21—A telegram announced that the Privy Council had allowed the appeal in the famous trade-mark case, *Leuba Freres v. Ullmann & Co.*, with costs in Messrs. Ullmann and Co.'s favour.
- 23—Legislative Council decided to take over the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Fund.
- 27—Another disastrous typhoon overtakes the Colony, causing extensive damage to property and some loss of life.
- 28—The extensions at the Naval Yard Hongkong completed.
- 30—Fire in Des Vœux Road.—Chief Justice robbed of a quantity of jewellery.

AUGUST.

- 1—Serious fire in the German Legation Quarters, Peking.
- 5—Chinese Bazaar at Canton opened in aid of the relief of sufferers by the floods.
- 6—The House of Lords granted special leave to appeal to the eight Chinese witnesses who were committed for perjury by His Honour the Chief Justice of Hongkong in the famous Wong Ka Chuen case.—Government decide to proceed with the building of the typhoon shelter at Mongkoksui, defraying the cost by an increase in the light dues.
- 12—Hongkong defeat Shanghai in the interport polo match by 11 goals to 7: H.E. the Governor presented the winners with the Keswick Cup.
- 13—Interport polo teams entertained by members of the Hongkong Club.
- 17—Senhor Rocada, Macao's new governor, arrived in Hongkong.
- 21—First prosecutions take place at the Police Court under the new Public Health and Buildings Ordinance.
- 26—British steamer *Dunearn* foundered in a typhoon off Goto Islands, with a loss of 50 lives.
- 30—Rev. Alfred Iliff died at Peak Hospital.—Following a letter published in the *Daily Press*, the Government take preliminary steps for the formation of an Emergency Volunteer Corps to save life during typhoons.

SEPTEMBER.

- 2—Corinthian Yacht Club defeat V.R.C. in the final for the Water Polo Shield by 1 goal to nil.
- 9—H.E. the Governor invests the Hon. Mr. Wei Yuk with the order of C.M.G.
- 11—Diamond Jubilee celebrations at French Convent.
- 15—Mr. G. L. Tomlin, secretary to the China Fire Insurance Co., died in London.
- 18—River cruiser *Kiang Ta*, built to the order of the Canton Government, launched at the Hongkong and Whampoa Docks.
- 19—Middlesex Regiment polo team defeated the civilian team in the final for the West Kent Cup by six goals to nil. H.E. the Governor presented the Cup.
- 20—Governor unveils memorial window at St. John's Cathedral, erected to perpetuate the memory of Bishop Hoare.
- 23—Annual meeting of V.R.C.
- 24—Presentation of the Estimates at Legislative Council by H. E. the Governor.
- 28—Lord and Lady Northcote arrive in Hongkong.—Suicide of Mr. Reginald Harding.
- 30—Death of Mr. L. A. M. Johnston, Postmaster-General.

OCTOBER.

- 1—Annual meeting of Amateur Athletic Association.—F. H. Cornell killed at Messrs. Butterfield and Swire's new godowns, Kowloon.
- 15—Coroner committed architect for trial in connection with the Yaumati Building collapse.
- 16—Interport shooting contest won by Singapore.

- 17—Volunteers go into camp at Stonecutters—Messrs. A. R. Marty's steamer "Hailan" refloated from a sand bank at Hoihow.
- 22—H.E. the Governor gave a farewell dinner to Rear-Admiral and Mrs Stokes.—Taotai Wen called at Hongkong en route to Thibet.—Shanghai defeated Hongkong in the interport cricket match by two wickets.—M. Klobukowski, the new Governor of Indo-China, welcomed at Hanoi.
- 24—Volunteer Troop and Gymkhana Club Gymkhana at Causeway Bay.—Hongkong defeated Shanghai in the interport tennis tournament.
- 29—Arrival of Dr. Sven Hedin in Hongkong.—Farewell Tattoo of Middlesex Regiment on the H.K.C.C. ground.
- 30—Chinese authorities welcome the American Fleet at Amoy.
- 31—Rear-Admiral and Mrs. Stokes left for England by the P. and O. steamer *Assaye*.
- NOVEMBER.
- 1—Riotous disturbances in Hongkong in connection with the Chinese boycott of Japanese goods. Military called out.
- 3—Peace Preservation Ordinance 1886 proclaimed in Hongkong, under which eight prominent Chinese were banished for promoting the boycott.
- 4—Annual licensing sessions.
- 6—News of the death of Mr. Archibald Little of Chungking published in a *Daily Press* telegram.
- 7—Sir Paul Chater entertained members of the Horticultural Society and others.
- 9—King's birthday review and ball at Government House.
- 11—Celebrations at Bangkok in connection with the completion of the 41st year of the reign of King Chulalongkorn.
- 13—Mr. H. O'Shea, editor of the *China Gazette* sentenced to two months' imprisonment at Shanghai for libelling Judge Wilfey of the American Court.
- 14—Papal Jubilee celebrations in Hongkong.—The death of the Chinese Emperor Kwong Hsu. The infant son of Prince Chun proclaimed the successor of the Emperor Kwong Hsu.—National mourning for 100 days ordered.
- 15—The Empress Dowager of China died.—H.E. the Governor visited Macao, on the occasion of the King of Portugal's birthday anniversary celebrations.
- 16—Opening of new Y.M.C.A. branch at Wanchai.
- 18—Important Full Court judgments in the action Leung Lai Nam and others v. Reuter, Brockelmann & Co.
- 20—Arrival of The Buffs in Hongkong.
- 22—Revolutionary outbreak at Anking quelled.
- 23—Formation of Association Football League.
- 26—Annual cricket match between the Navy and Army ended in a draw.
- 29—Excitement at Canton over the death of a Chinese passenger who was alleged to have been kicked to death by a Portuguese ticket-collector. The allegation was entirely disproved at the inquiry in the British Consular Court, but the Chinese were dissatisfied with the verdict and asked for a trial by the Portuguese Consul-General.
- 30—St. Andrew's ball at City Hall.—Two armed robberies at the village of Chinwan.
- DECEMBER.
- 1—The American Fleet at Manila.
- 2—The A.D.C. produce "A Country Girl" at the City Hall.
- 3—Agreement between America and Japan announced guaranteeing the *status quo* in the Pacific.
- 5—Accession edict of the Chinese Emperor published in *Daily Press*.—Hongkong defeated Canton by an innings in an interport cricket match.
- 12—The death of Sir Ewen Cameron of the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank announced.—Bandmann Comedy Co., opened a season at the Theatre Royal.
- 14—Annual bazaar Asile de la Sainte Enfance.
- 16—Arrival of the All-American Baseballers.
- 17—Petition presented to the Legislative Council by Sir Henry Berkeley, K.C. on behalf of over 7,000 Catholics, protesting against the proposed route of the new Peak tramway.
- 20—Reaph All-American Baseballers played against a local team at Happy Valley.

- 21—Hongkong Club defeated the Club Germania in the annual bowling match by 1440 points.
- 22—Rajputs Gymkhana at Causeway Bay.
- 24—Lady Lugard returned to the colony.
- 28—Chinese Authorities seize the British steamer *Tai On* on the West River.
- 29—Mr. Kato, G.C.M.G. Japanese Minister to London and Mrs. Kato entertained at Government House.

TRADE REVIEW 1908.

Below we give a retrospect of the trade of the year 1908 the data of which have been gathered from authoritative sources.

EXCHANGE.

During 1907 exchange has been fluctuating between 1/11½ and 1s 8d. It was at its highest, 1/11½ in the beginning of January, since when rates have been declining steadily during the year, with the usual temporary rises [mainly caused by speculation in India and China], down to 1s 8d. at the beginning of December; since then there has been a little recovery and the T/T rate stood on the 31st December, 1908 1s. 8½d.

The main reason for the decline of silver we must attribute to the total absence of the Indian Government as a buyer, the trade balance having been against India nearly all the year. The Government had no reason to add more to their already large stocks and it is argued that little silver may be required for India for months to come. Besides there is the increase of the world's production by the opening up of the Cobalt mines in Canada. The *Statist* of July 6th, 1908, gave the following official returns for these mines since 1904 as follows:—

	Tons of Silver contents 2,000 lbs.	oz.
1904	158	206,875
1905	2,144	2,451,356
1906 first half	1,190	1,445,360
1906 second half	4,125	3,987,018
1907 first half	6,319	4,473,540
1907 second half	8,469	5,549,771

Whether the sharp decline in the price of silver will influence the working of these mines is, of course, another question, so far only the returns for January and February 1908 are to hand showing shipment of tons 2,500, against tons 1,880 during the same period in 1907. The lowest price of silver quoted during this year was 22d on December 3rd being only 1s higher than the lowest point ever touched.

COTTON AND YARN.

The fluctuations in India or America seem to have very little effect on our market here, which is entirely controlled by local conditions and the requirements of the country. The increasing importations of the low counts of Indian Yarn and the introduction of cheap Japanese cloth into the country have considerably checked the consumption of the raw material. Receipts during the period amount to 27,194 bales and sales aggregate 26,720 bales. A fair portion of the arrivals are supposed to be in fulfilment of contracts with the local mill, while a small quantity have been re-exported to Kobe on consignment, leaving about 500 bales in stocks here.

The commercial retrospect of the last year is chiefly remarkable for the numerous fluctuations and incessant decline in silver, producing serious disturbances in commercial operations, great depreciation in many articles of produce, low prices and more or less heavy losses to importers. The review of the yarn market shows this article of commerce to have participated in the general depression, with a few occasional and spasmodic efforts at excitement and animation, and the result of the year's business has been far from satisfactory.

The Indian trade, so far as Hongkong is concerned, has materially advanced during the past twelve months. Imports amount to 210,275 bales as against 146,395 bales last year, while sales aggregate 151,243 bales as against 137,608 bales in 1907, showing an increase of 43 and 10 per cent. respectively. As the evil effects of the late crisis of 1906-07 are gradually disappearing, the country is in a better position to absorb imports, and demand from the consuming districts, despite natural and political dis-

turbances, has been on a much larger scale and on the whole a comparatively good business has been put through. Importations during the first four months of the year met with some profit, and more or less covering prices were obtained; exchange kept steady and values appreciated \$4 to \$5 per bale owing to brisk enquiry. In May a sudden drop of 5 to 6 points in exchange took place, no adequate advance in rates could be obtained and business was greatly checked in consequence. A brisk demand from the country then set in, but as silver continued to decline the advance in prices was not sufficient to allow much for the loss in exchange and all sufficient efforts to adjust them to the lower level of exchange proved unsuccessful. On the whole the year under review has been unremunerative to the trade. Except in the case of some best and favourite spinnings prices seldom reached the level of rates ruling in Bombay, and were it not for a little occasional assistance from Shanghai results would have been more unsatisfactory.

In the beginning of the year exchange stood at Rs. 143, and is now quoted at about Rs. 126; best spinnings of No. 10s were sold at \$96 to \$98, and are now quoted at \$110 to \$111; unsold stocks in January were estimated about Rs. 8,000 bales, and the market now closes almost lifeless with a trifling stock of 19,000 bales.

The past twelve months have been very successful to native dealers. Their proceedings have been marked by extreme caution and their purchases principally confined to actual requirements under country orders and without an outlet for their purchases no concession on the part of holders to effect sales could induce free buying.

The last year has been the fourth successive period of prosperity to the cotton mills in Bombay. The most noticeable feature of the trade has been the successful placing of the low counts of Bombay yarn on the English market.

PIECE GOODS.

The year just closed has shown some improvement over the two years immediately preceding, although the piece goods business generally can hardly be described as satisfactory. There has been a general reluctance on the part of dealers to enter into any large contracts, but this has also had its advantages, the supply having been kept more nearly approximate to the demand from consuming districts. Stocks have therefore been light and clearances good. The improvement has been mostly felt in Fancy Goods, and would have been even more marked had not supplies of bankrupt stock and other cheap cargo found their way down here from Shanghai and the North.

Grey and White goods have not benefited so much as Fancies, but there were heavier stocks to work off in these.

SUNDRIES.

The year 1908 may on the whole be said to have been a satisfactory one. True we have heard many grumblings about the bad times throughout the year, but nearly every one will admit that the trade has shown a considerable improvement on that of the year 1907.

During the year prices have come down at home for many articles, and a good business has been done in consequence. Cotton Goods, Hosiery, Umbrellas, Woollen Cord, Berlin Wool, Lam, Braid and Blankets, have all seen a remarkably low level of prices during the year, so much so that many of the Foreign hongs have been tempted to buy in anticipation for 1909 deliveries, and it remains to be seen whether their gambles will result favourably to themselves or not. The discount on Chinese coins, which was such a disturbing element in this class of business last year, has not been so heavy during the latter half of the year and dealers have benefited to a great extent.

The continued fall in exchange has since October prevented a lot of business being put through, but on the other hand dealers have been able to make a little money on some of their purchases made when exchange was good. Many native dealers, however, refuse to hold any cargo at all for a rise, and if they see a chance of selling without loss, they do, thus spoiling the market for others. One hears much about the guilds of the Chinese being able to regulate prices, but as far as the dealers in Sundries are concerned, this does not hold good, the competition being too keen. There have been only a few failures of native dealers

in Hongkong and Canton this year, which may be considered satisfactory. The outlook for next year is not very promising as stocks in native hands seem heavy.

SILK.

At the beginning of the year the Silk market was dull and prices had a downward tendency. About the middle of January an improvement set in, but was of only short duration, prices having dropped by the end of February some \$60 per picul. Stocks accumulating rapidly, dealers had to make further considerable concessions, filatures fine sizes suffering most. The lowest point was reached towards the middle of March, when values were from \$100 to \$150 per picul lower than at the beginning of the year. Demand from European markets now made itself felt and by the end of April prices had advanced \$80/\$90 per picul, a drop of 6 per cent. in exchange facilitating business. The market ruled steady during May and a fair turnover was done. During the early part of June demand slackened off but improved later, values advancing \$30/\$40 per picul in spite of a rise of about 5 per cent in exchange. During July prices rose a further \$40 to \$50, exchange dropping some 3 per cent. Steam filatures for mechanical weaving and coarse-sized filatures were most in demand, August and September saw but small fluctuations in values as well as in exchange. October opened dull, prices losing from 1 per cent to 3 per cent.; this was, however, followed by a steady improvement, chiefly due to the small crops and the further fall of 5 per cent in rates of exchange. Prices have experienced an advance of about \$100 per picul during the last three months of the year.

The seven crops of this season yielded about 34,000 bales against 50,000 bales of last year, but large stocks of old season's cocoons and silk having been carried over to the new season the deficit has been partly covered. The quality of the 1st and 2nd and 6th and 7th crops has been very good; the silk of the other crops was, however, rather dirty and not up to the requirements of mechanical weaving. No improvement has been made in the reeling of steam filatures and the export of native silk, owing to poor winding and irregularity of size, is falling off steadily, and threatens to stop completely in a few years, if means are not found to improve this kind of silk.

CASSIA.

Demand for this commodity ruled fairly good during the whole year and total exports of whole and broken Cassia are estimated at about 55,000 piculs. The market opened rather low and during April and May prices still further declined, a rumour having been circulated to the effect that the crop would yield considerably more than last year. Since the month of June however values have steadily advanced and have now reached a level which has not been seen for many years past. The report of a large crop was evidently an exaggerated one, the stocks now left being only very small. These are held at the present time by Chinese speculators, who look for still higher prices. Thanks to the efforts made by the Cassia Guild the quality has this season been slightly improved but still leaves much to be desired. In spite of the promises made by the Guild to remedy the old complaint of all foreign houses, viz shortage in weight, this trouble still continues. Business is now practically at a standstill, the prices asked being beyond reach of home markets.

MATTING.

The season opened rather late, i.e. in April, and the demand more than ever favoured the Tungkun make, for which large orders were placed and which, as a consequence, fetched unusually high prices. The Lintan Matting during the greater part of the year were more or less neglected and concessions in prices were freely obtainable from manufacturers. However, towards the end of the period under review a good demand sprang up for the highest grade, viz. the 116 warps Matting, stocks of which in America were getting very reduced, only comparatively small contracts having been placed at the commencement of the season. Although the lower exchange now ruling allows this class of Matting to come in under the low rate of duty at a considerably higher price, those paid for these late contracts are below the rates at the beginning

of the season. Total export of Matting to the U.S.A. during 1908 is estimated at about 450,000 rolls. A good amount of business has been done in Mats and Carpets, the total export of which, principally to Europe, is estimated at about 60,000 rolls. Prices were anything but remunerative. Floods and typhoons were pretty frequent this year and large damage is reported from Lintan, where considerable quantities of straw have been destroyed by a recent conflagration.

METALS.

The expectation that values had reached their bottom by the end of 1907 has not been realised. Prices rather continued their downward course and have only latterly kept fairly steady. For some metals even an advance has to be recorded on the rates ruling in the beginning of 1908.

Generally speaking, business has been fairly satisfactory to both importers and native dealers, firstly because both acted cautiously, and secondly because the decline has not been very accentuated and was occasionally interrupted by a temporary recovery or steadiness.

With the heavy decline from the abnormally high rates ruling before the American crisis set in, prices have reached a level which may be considered fairly safe, and in many instances is lower than it has been for many years past. As usual, low prices act as a stimulant on consumptive demand, and the position being regarded with more confidence, the volume of business has rather increased in some lines.

Prices compare as follows:—

	30th Dec. 1907	30th Dec. 1908
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Silver	24½	22½
Quicksilver	8 4 0	8 9 "
Nailrods	6 15 0	6 0 0
Lead	15 5 0	14 2 6
Spelter	19 10 0	21 2 6
Copper	64 0 0	66 10 0
Yellow Metal	7d.	6½

KEROSENE OIL, PETROLEUM AND BY-PRODUCTS.

The kerosene oil market for the year has been extremely strong, owing to the gradual drop in exchange, and the firm position at home. The delivery into consumption has increased for all brands, and lubricants have held their own, while there has been a material increase in wax, naphtha, and other by-products, over the preceeding year.

FLOUR.

There has been practically no trade in Australian flour this year, and a generous estimate would not put the total at more than three thousand bags. Of course fair quantities have been finding their way to Shanghai and Singapore but nothing of any moment has been landed at Hongkong. Dealers however anticipate business as the result of the American freights having been put up to the level of Suez rates. The Australian crop has not turned out well, and the bumper harvest that was expected is not likely to be realised. The best price for Australian flour is £8 per ton c.i.f. which is equivalent to \$2.40 per quarter sack.

The market did not show the same activity as in the previous year. During the cake season there has been a considerable falling off, due principally to the fact that the crops in South China were fairly good and to the fact that high prices ruled on the other side, the low exchange causing a decline in the demand. The imports of flour from 1st January to 30th December amounted to 3,889,938 sacks of 50lbs each.

RICE.

As against the increase of twenty-five per cent recorded last year the shipments from Saigon show a falling off this year of about four million piculs. Up till 11th December the total export amounted to 12,545,615 of which 2,745,800 were consigned to Hongkong, 1,104,790 to Manila, 8,765,400 to Japan, 1,298,743 to Sourabaya, and 3,288,300 to Europe.

OPIMUM.

Bengal Opium. In accordance with the agreement between the British and Chinese Governments to reduce the export of Opium from India yearly, the Government of India sold at auction in 1908 46,800 chests against 50,400 chests in 1907. Fluctuations have been very heavy during the year, due to the decline in silver, and to the various attempts made by the Provincial Officials to place restrictions on the sale of raw opium contrary to the Treaties.

Owing to the vigilance of the British Consular officials these attempts have been frustrated, but the temporary disorganization of trade and the feeling of uncertainty that prevails, has had its effect both on prices and consumption, and the result of the year's trading has not been satisfactory.

The restrictions above referred to take the form of various complicated and unworkable systems of licensing sellers, and buyers of raw drug, the establishment of a monopoly by limiting the number of dealers in same, and restricting the sale of raw opium to quantities not less than one whole ball of the drug. The highest price for Patna touched during the year was \$1,220 and the lowest \$920.

Malwa. The sale last year was limited to 15,100 chests and this quantity is to be reduced yearly by 10 per cent. The remarks regarding Bengal apply to this description also. Fluctuations have been more violent in Malwa; the highest price touched during the year was \$1,330 and the lowest \$900 for new drug of good quality.

Persian. The import of this drug into China is to participate in the reduction of 10 per cent. annually, the sale for next year being limited to 1,000 piculs. The highest price touched during the year was \$950, and the lowest \$830.

TONNAGE.

Last year was one of exceptional inactivity for the freight market in the East, low freights ruling all over the coast, while want of employment forced many steamers to lay up at various ports, notably Hongkong. To a certain degree, according to Messrs. Aagaard, Thoresen and Co.'s annual report, the dull state of the freight markets in other ports of the world accounts for some of the old, and, for the coasting trade unsuitable steamers remaining here, owners apparently preferring to keep them out East as long as possible in the hope that things will again brighten. When our last review appeared the market was quiet, and early January brought a further depression and the usual listlessness. The approach of Chinese New Year further accentuated the bad state of the market, while the reports of abnormal rainfalls in Indo-China threatening the crops also had a deteriorating effect to some degree. At Saigon old crop cargo was getting scarce and rates to Hongkong dropped to eight cents per picul.

Coal freights remained idle, with very little inquiry, Haiphong to Canton being fixed to \$1.60 and Moji to Swatow at \$1.40. February opened quietly in all directions with the exception of Saigon to Hongkong where the inquiry was well maintained, and quite a number of boats were taken up at rates ranging from 14 to 16 cents per picul. To the Philippines, rates also improved a little, 26 to 28 cents being obtainable, and some fixtures were concluded at 24 and 25 cents to Java, while Saigon to Singapore in one instance was done on the basis of 16 cents per picul. During the first half of March rice freights from Saigon to Hongkong continued to be the mainstay of the market. The enquiry, however, gradually subsided owing to the fall in the price of that commodity here, and freight which had crawled up to 16½ cents fell to 13½ with scant enquiry. Chefoo and Yangtze river ports came in the market to Canton and many of the regular liners, which, owing to lack of cargo, had been thrown on the open market, again found employment in this direction, while the opening of Tientsin helped to improve matters. April, which in ordinary circumstances should have been one of the best months of the year, proved this year to be a discouraging exception to the rule. Coal freights, however, were well maintained, Moji to Swatow being done at \$2.15; Hongay to Canton at \$1.80; and from Karatzu to Canton \$2.70 was paid, this latter being the highest rate paid for coal from Japan during the whole year. A small number of steamers found employment in the Saigon-Philippine trade in the early part of May. Freights, however, were weaker, in sympathy with the Saigon to Hongkong market where the inquiry was very limited, and where rates did not in any instance exceed 12 cents.

Idle tonnage began to accumulate in Hongkong, and the order of the day was to get North by hook or by crook, the Northern market, bad as it was, being considered better than the one down here, especially as no improvement could be expected in any of the local trades.

In the early part of June there was a considerable increase in the number of steamers laid up in Hongkong and during that month rates generally were on the decline. They improved very little in July, but large shipments of sugar to the United States materially helped to remove from the coast some of the large colliers which had come out with bunkers for the American fleet. August maintained its bad reputation as one of the dullest months in the year, and owners had a hard fight to secure employment. This general dullness continued during September and rates dropped still further. There was a slight improvement during the month of October by reason of the fact that a number of vessels found employment in the Wuhu-Swato trade, owing to trouble having arisen between shippers and the regular lines, and several steamers which were laid up at Hongkong and other places went north to enter into this trade; but owing to the number of boats competing, rates did not reach a satisfactory level. The freights obtained in November left much to be desired, while there was a slight improvement in the market in December.

If no extraordinary events cause a rise in the markets during the coming year it is anticipated that freights, while slowly tending upward, will drag along in much the same unsatisfactory way as during the last two years. A better business is, however, expected in the Newchwang-Canton market.

COAL.

There has practically been no change between this year and 1907 in the Coal market except on contracts, which have shown a slight advance in prices. All principal consumers had their Coals contracted for and very few extra sales have been effected during the year under review. The following is a general review for the year:—

Japanese Coals—About 850,000 tons reached Hongkong during the year, the quantity being about the same as 1907. The Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, being the largest importers, contributed over 400,000 tons including those cargoes discharged at Canton. As mentioned in our last year's report, small steamers with full and or part cargoes are now going direct to Canton for discharge, thus saving the boat hire between this and Canton. The Mitsui Bishi Goshi Kwaisha rank second in the list of importers the quantity imported by them amounting to about 150,000 tons. They are suppliers to the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co., Canadian Pacific Railway and other Steamship Companies. The principal loading ports in Japan are Moji, Kutchinotsu, Karatsu and Mororan, the latter port being the loading port for Yubari Lump Coal.

Cardiff Coals—About 50,000 tons arrived here all of which was landed into godowns. Forty thousand tons came to the Admiralty. Small sales were effected ex godown and/or trimmed into bunkers.

Australian Coals—The Messageries Maritimes Company, whose arrivals amounted to over 38,000 tons, imported the Coal for the use of their mail steamers. Other arrivals from Australia aggregate about 40,000 tons, a small portion of which was sold to Chinese; the bulk however was taken into consumption by the importers.

Bengal Coal—There being no demand for this Coal, no local firm imported any into the Colony during the year for sale.

Hongay Coal—Some 95,000 tons reached here by small steamers most of them proceeding to Canton with their cargoes.

Pulo Laut—Only a few small steamers of about 2,000 tons arrived during the year.

Tsingtau Coal—There is practically no demand for this coal, the list of arrivals being of no importance.

Tourane Kebao and Haiphong Coals—Several small steamers with these coals arrived during the year all proceeding to Canton for the discharge of their cargoes.

Tairen Coal—During the middle of December the s.s. *Shibetori Maru* arrived here with 4,000 tons of Bujen Coal, this being a new coal from South Manchuria. The Mitsui Bussan Kaisha are the importers and the whole cargo was sold to Chinese.

Mr. John Blechynden, who is well known locally by his connection with Shanghai's Docks, has recently undergone an operation in the Shanghai General Hospital.

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION IN CHINA.

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT.

The annual meeting of this association was held at Shanghai last week. The membership now stands at Honorary 3; Resident 122; Non-Resident 93; total 218.

The President (Mr. Murray Warner) said:—In moving the adoption of the Report of the Committee, I desire to call your attention to certain matters connected therewith. Under our Constitution it is primarily the object of this Association;—(1) To foster and safeguard the commercial and other interests of the Citizens of the United States in Asia. (2) To gather and distribute information of importance to its members. (3) To promote good feeling between Americans and natives of the East. (4) To secure proper celebration of the National Holidays. (5) To promote, in the Consular Service, the principles of uniform selection for proved fitness, regular promotion, security of tenure during efficient service and adequate compensation.

Referring to these in their regular order, under heading 1 and 2, the subject of legislation receives first thought. In this Association's Memorial of a year ago, addressed to the President and Congress of the United States, asking for special legislation for Americans in China, your Committee specified certain things that were greatly needed:—A code of laws and statutory enactment regarding extradition was asked for as were a law of real property, and laws of bankruptcy, admiralty and divorce. Certain recommendations in connection with suggested legislation were also made, and reasons given therefor. I quote from the Memorial: "In this connection, attention is also invited to the fact that there has been considerable discussion among Americans in China, on the subject of the need of Assessors to sit with the Court in the trial of criminal cases for the purpose of aiding the Court in passing judgment upon the facts. This Association is of the opinion that some provision should be made covering this matter, since it is inadvisable to extend the jury system to China at this time." Again, I quote, this time from the Memorandum on the Judiciary "The Judge of the U.S. Court is now the sole Judge in all cases and American citizens are subject to his sole decision, unaided and uncontrolled by Jury or Assessors, and it is suggested that the Court might consist of the Judge, the Assistant Judge, and one or more Assessors from whose decision, if unanimous, appeal should be permitted on points of law but not of fact."

In response to your request and suggestions, there were altogether three Bills introduced into Congress during the year, which were supposed to be based upon the Memorial of this Association. One of these Bills, introduced in the Senate, provided for Probate, Domicile, Extradition and the Code of California, and while it carefully eliminated the Jury system from the California Code it made no provision for Assessors to replace the Jury. The two Bills introduced in the House of Representatives provided a very excellent method of choosing Assessors and then adds: "The duty of an Assessor shall be to attend Court throughout the course of the action and, until discharged or dismissed, to give findings of fact, in the course of the action, if required by the Judge, but the findings of the fact etc., shall be solely that of the Judge."

It is plainly evident, that, although, the Bills ostensibly embodied the suggestion of the Memorial, in providing for a system of Assessors, they nevertheless failed to satisfy, in any degree, the spirit of the Memorial which intended to provide for a control in the finding of fact. When it was apparent that your recommendations on such a vital point were so misunderstood or neglected, your Committee, after full discussion, telegraphed to Washington, suggesting that legislation, in respect to the laws for the U.S. Court for China be withheld until the Association could be heard from. It then became the duty of the Committee to ascertain and set forth, in no uncertain terms, the wishes of the Americans in China.

That the original Memorial recommended the Assessor system, rather than the Jury system, was because (as your President told you last year,) the Committee was not quite clear in its mind as to whether the American Communities, elsewhere than at Shanghai, were able to support a Jury system. That Committee took what appeared to it to be the safe side.—It was the intention of the Memorial to recommend the nearest approach to a Jury system that could be provided by the smaller communities. There was not then time before the Memorial was prepared for a canvass of the Outports to ascertain their strength. A careful canvass has now shown an almost unanimous desire for a Jury system; and has demonstrated clearly the ability of the Outports to support such a system. Your Committee, upon the information collected made certain recommendations, which were at variance, in a small degree, with the original Memorial, and referred the matter to you for your approval or rejection. These recommendations, in the form of resolutions, you passed at a special general meeting and they have been forwarded to Washington; and we hope and believe, that when legislation is enacted, full consideration will be given to your expressed preferences. There was a small opposition, not, we believe, to the spirit of the resolutions, but rather to any alteration in the Memorial for fear it might delay the legislation which is so much desired. It is not, and never was, the intention of this Committee to depart from the general spirit of the Memorial. The needs therein expressed are as urgent to-day as they were a year ago. Had the Committee thought that, by altering certain minor features of the Memorial, it would in any way jeopardize or delay the much-needed legislation for China, it would have hesitated before offering any modifications.

Upon this point I may say, that the Committee does not apprehend any delay owing to these changes; there is every reason to believe that all attention will be given to your wishes. The Committee believe that by showing an active and intelligent interest in these matters, you will get a just consideration from those able to help you to what you want.

Another matter which has had the attention of your Committee is the Native Bank Notes. In realising the readiness with which all foreigners receive and pay out the Bank notes of all substantial Banking Institutions, the native Banks have discovered a method by which money could be had without interest and at the nominal cost of printing. Numbers of Banks have already issued notes and by judiciously distributing these notes over a large area they have floated large issues. Behind these promises to pay, there may be in some cases great financial strength, but in the great majority of cases, there is no known specific reserve or guarantee of any kind to inspire confidence. A part of the work to your new Committee will be to assist in pointing out the dangers of such methods of finance, which, if unchecked, may mean in the not distant future deplorable distrust and financial trouble.

Under heading 3.—The visit of Tang Shao-yi gave your Committee an opportunity for a friendly talk on matters of general interest to Chinese and Americans. The Chinese have shown, in a most happy way their appreciation of the return of a part of the Boxer Indemnity, by using this money for the education of Chinese students in American schools and colleges. Many students have already gone to America and one hundred a year are to be sent for some time to come. The visit of the American Fleet to China gave an opportunity for much good feeling and it was with regret the Association heard that the Fleet would not visit Shanghai, thus precluding our taking any active part in this Official expression of good will.

Referring to heading 5.—The Consular Service; I should like to say a word. It is with pleasure and no small amount of gratification that we are able to review the appointments made, during the past year, to the posts of Consuls-General, Consul and Vice-Consuls. Practically all the appointments were made by the promotion of men trained in the Service, and it is to be hoped that the successor to the present Secretary of State, will continue the administration along these lines, which have proved successful in giving us the efficient Consular Service which we (Applause) now have.

SHIPPING NOTES.

The cargo of the British steamer *Kalomo* which was destroyed by fire at Singapore was consigned to Manila. On board the *Kalomo* and lost with the vessel, were 86,000 pesos worth of goods for the Bureau of Supplies and 2,000 new books for the American circulating library of Manila. Vast quantities of Christmas goods were among the cargo. Messrs. Erlanger and Gallinger, of Manila, are among the heaviest sufferers from the disaster, their loss including fourteen motor cycles and a large consignment of shoes for the enlisted force of the Philippines constabulary, manufactured under contract with that firm in the United States. The opening of the Palomar Park, Manila's Coney Island, will be retarded indefinitely by the sinking of the *Kalomo*, the fixtures and materials for which, imported by Mr. M. A. Clarke and coming over on the vessel, having been lost. The wonderful scenic railway which was to delight old and young, at the great Tondo playgrounds, has found a resting place at the bottom of the sea, a plaything for the pranks of the finny denizens of the deep. The vessel was a modern freight carrier of 6,010 tons displacement, built only last year at Port Glasgow by R. Duncan and Co., Ltd. The *Kalomo* was owned by the Bucknall S. S. lines, Ltd., and for some time past had been under charter to the American-Manchurian Steamship Company, plying between the Atlantic seaboard and Oriental ports.

The fire on the China Navigation Company's steamer *Tsinan*, which occurred recently when the steamer was a few hours out from Kobe, broke out among bales of cotton. This cotton had been loaded at Shanghai, and that portion of the lading affected by the fire was destined for Yokkaichi. There were on board at the time 480 bales of raw cotton and 200 packages of hemp, and the damage done is estimated at 50,000 yen. Most of the cargo was insured in Shanghai offices. It appears that a Japanese coolie was found in the hold in a very exhausted condition. When the officers were trying to trace "the smell of something burning" they heard sounds of knocking in the hold, and thus discovered the coolie and the fire at the same time. Two boxes of matches were found in the coolie's possession, but no tobacco. He stated that he had been smoking in the hold, in company with other coolies, whilst working in the harbour of Kobe, but missing the boat which conveyed the coolies back to shore, he concealed himself in the hold. It is believed, however, that the man was attempting to travel to Yokohama free of charge. He was handed over to the police.

We notice that the well-known coaster, the *Kwong Sang*, lying at the Hongkong and Kowloon's West Point wharf is gaily decorated. This is not only in honour of the festive season, but because she is at present on her 100th regular trip from Shanghai and Swatow to Hongkong and Canton. She has met with great good fortune for during the whole time she has never, to use a nautical expression, broken a rope yarn. Her owners, the Indo-China Company, as well as her genial commander Capt. W. P. Parker are to be congratulated on the performance. May the *Kwong Sang* make her next century with the same success!

The *Asia* being with us again, perhaps one of the officers will favour the public by answering the questions in the following letter which we find in a Manila contemporary to hand by the latest Mail:—

"Having noted, in the *Hongkong Daily Press* of December 10th, that the s.s. *Asia*, due here to-day, after encountering a typhoon, when cleaning tubes, found that sixteen fish had got down the funnel, in the interests of all concerned I would ask: Did these fish jump down the funnel for shelter and warmth, or were they merely dipped up as the ship rolled, and also, what description of fish were they—dolphins, porpoises or whales? Any information in this respect will oblige yours cheerfully—ENQUIRER.

P.S. Also were the fish properly cooked when found, and were they served as a part of the *Asia's* famous cuisine?

On her last trip to Cebu the s.s. *Hoichow* rescued three Chinese seamen from a wrecked junk some 80 miles from Hongkong. The sailors were taken the round trip and back to Hongkong yesterday. A number of the inhabitants of Cebu entertained the seamen while the *Hoichow* was at that port, and before they left a collection was made on their behalf, and the sum of 300 pesos realised. The sailors were yesterday handed over to the Registrar-General.

The Pacific Mail liner *Mongolia*, on her last outward trip was christened "the royal yacht" at Honolulu on account of the number of royalties among its passengers. The passengers, of whom there were 556, included a queen, a princess, two princes and a viceroy, and from the liner's fore there fluttered the royal dragon flag of China. The liner looked like a yacht as it rounded to off the barge office in the early morning sunshine. Freight with a cargo that trimmed the hull to show its line to best advantage the *Mongolia's* paint work was fresh and the brass work shining. It was big for a yacht, but it looked the part just the same.

A certificate has been granted to the T.K.K. steamer *Chiyo-maru* by the Japanese Communications Department stating that the vessel is qualified to receive the bounty provided by the Steam Navigation Encouragement Law for a period from the 14th instant to November 25th next year. A similar certificate valid from the 15th instant to October 24th next year, has been granted to the N.Y.K. steamer *Hirano-maru*. Now in port on her maiden trip to Europe.

A somewhat serious collision occurred at Woosung last week, by which a cargo boat and a valuable cargo of hides were sunk and a number of coolies had narrow escapes from drowning. The registered cargo boat No. 6, belonging to the Shanghai Tug and Lighter Co., was lying alongside the N.Y.K. steamer *Wakasa Maru*, unloading hides into the steamer for transshipment to Europe, and while the coolies were engaged in their work the M.B.K. steamer *Asosan Maru*, 1,217 tons, Captain Tsuiji, from Japan with a cargo of coal, was observed coming into Woosung at a good speed. She did not appear to be altering her course, but seemed to be making straight for the mail steamer alongside of which were a number of lighters. When it was seen that a collision was inevitable the coolies on boat No. 6 made a scramble to save themselves, some jumping on other boats, but before all of them could gain a place of safety the oncoming steamer struck the lighter a terrific blow, tearing the whole side out of the cargo boat, which sank in less than two minutes, leaving those of the crew who had not gained the *Asosan Maru*, when the collision occurred, floundering in the river. Fortunately there was no loss of life, though the boat will prove a total loss and her cargo of hides, even if recovered, will be badly damaged. The *Wakasa Maru* was not damaged but it is believed that the *Asosan Maru* sustained some slight damage, though not enough to prevent her from comming up river to her wharf. It is understood that the steering gear of the steamer in some manner became disabled and the ship refused to answer her helm.

The rumour recently circulated in the Japanese press that the Kawasaki Dockyard was to be purchased by the Government "owing to the unfavourable condition of the business" has been authoritatively denied by the Vice-President of the Company, who adds that at present there is plenty of work on hand in spite of the general financial and trade depression. The vessels under construction at the Dockyard or ordered include two of 8,600 tons each for the Nippon Yusen Kaisha; three for the Osaka Shosen Kaisha; a torpedo-boat destroyer for Siam; and four dredgers for the Government and Tokushima Prefecture. A steam turbine for a battleship building for the Imperial Navy is also being made at the Dockyard. At the Company's branch works, tramcars are being constructed for the Hiogo and Hanshin electric lines, locomotives and bridges for the Imperial Railway Board, the framework of a pier for Fusan, and pipes for the Osaka waterworks. The number of persons employed by the Company has steadily increased of late years and in every

respect it may be regarded as a flourishing concern. The Vice-President also said that the Government was not in need of the Dockyard as it had very complete plants at Kure and Yokosuka, including facilities for the construction of five battleships at one time.

JAPAN.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

TOKYO, Dec. 17.

A TRAMWAY COMPANY PROBLEM.

The affairs of the Tokyo Railway Company are now, with the approach of the year end, attracting great attention, for it may be said without exaggeration that a crisis has arrived in the history of the company. The half-yearly meeting will be held on the 20th, when shareholders will be asked to give their approval to a balance sheet in which for the first time dividends are considered of secondary importance and large sums are set aside for depreciation and reserve. Even the directors forego their customary bonus, 50,000 yen, because of their determination to reform the company's position. The accounts show a net revenue of 1,642,403 yen. Instead of using the bulk of this in a seven or eight per cent. dividend as on previous occasions the directors propose to dispose of it as follows:—To reserve for depreciation 500,000 yen, to amortization fund 175,000 yen, to dividend at 4 per cent. 870,000 yen, carried forward together with sum from last account, over 200,000 yen.

THE NEW POLICY.

No conservative business man could find fault with this balance sheet, but in a country where such substantial methods of business are not at all common, the balance sheet of the Tokyo Railway may be indeed described as novel. But it is necessary, and had it been the practice of the company from the first to look ahead in this way the shareholders would have been a more satisfied body of men to-day. Indeed, the conviction grows upon one the more the affairs of this company are studied that there has been mismanagement and shortsightedness from the first. When, a few years ago, the Tokyo Railway Company, with a subscribed capital of 60,000,000 yen, was formed by the amalgamation of the three existing tramway companies, an agreement was entered into with the city authorities, the one-sided character of which was not then realised. The company, apparently, blindly entered into this agreement, which bound it to the following conditions:—To surrender its whole property without compensation to the city 50 years from date; to carry out certain extensions in the suburbs; to pay a certain tax to the city from which the latter hoped to derive an income of about 300,000 yen; and to charge a fare fixed in consultation with the city. These conditions are hanging heavily on the neck of the company to-day. They were made in times of great business activity and expansion, and the representatives of the company were without the experience that they have had since.

UNPROFITABLE EXTENSIONS.

Apparently the item which has worked most to the disadvantage of the company in the above agreement is that compelling it to make extensions in the suburbs. The expense is heavy and the lines when in working order are unremunerative under the present system of fares by which for four sen passengers can travel any distance. Citizens not only reap an advantage from the tramway, and landlords an increase of property value, but the city derives great advantage from the improvement of streets. Wherever the lines go they carry reform. Narrow, crooked, ill-paved, unlighted, depressing suburban thoroughfares are straightened, broadened, lighted, and levelled up in a manner that must be very pleasing indeed to a negative local administration whose idea of mending roads is that of the backwoods. In short it may be said that the tramway carries civilisation with it in the suburbs but the unfortunate shareholder has to pay and get no profit in return.

THE FARE QUESTION.

Profitless, at least, will be his lot until the fares are increased. To the ordinary business mind this might seem an ordinary necessary of business, but not to one acquainted with business

affairs in this country. First of all, by the agreement itself, nothing can be done without the consent of the city authorities, and through those officials, the central Government authorities. These operations involve an amount of negotiation inconceivable to a more practical mind, suggesting in fact that a matter of vital international importance was on the board instead of a paltry increase of fare. Then there is the opposition of a more or less corrupt Press and the more feared opposition of the lower classes, which might take the form of car smashing under the smallest incitement. These are forces the authorities have been unpleasantly reminded of on previous occasions when the people have shown their displeasure at official acts. But still, the people are not blind to what is just. The company shows by its accounts that the present 4 sen fare is unremunerative and perhaps this unanswerable argument will be more effective than have been the arguments on the subject pro and con hitherto, as the public have simply refused to be convinced while the company was paying the ordinary dividend.

POSITION OF THE SHAREHOLDERS.

The Tokyo Railway Company may be described as one of the largest Japanese and the largest foreign concern in this country. The subscribed capital is 60,000,000 yen of which 37,000,000 yen is paid up. Over 20,000 shares are held by foreigners, representing a million and a quarter yen paid up and foreigners are more largely interested in this than in any other concern, foreign or Japanese. A peculiar situation has arisen with regard to the new shares of the company. When the last call was made some months ago, owing to the stringency then prevailing, shareholders were given the option of paying in or paying the company interest at the rate of 7.3 per cent on their unpaid share. Therefore if the coming shareholders' meeting adopts the present dividend of 4 per cent, holders of new shares who have not paid in will be debtors to the company to the extent of 3.3 per cent on their holding. Whereas it was universally anticipated that the company would declare the usual dividend—as it is able to do—leaving the unpaid new-share holders debtors to the extent of 3 per cent, they are to be made debtors to the extent of 3.3 per cent. Thus one irregularity leads to another. The whole situation of the company is full of interest, and the coming meeting of shareholders will most likely be an exciting one.

QUEENS OF THE PACIFIC.

On the other side of the Pacific they are lamenting the decay of their mercantile marine, while Japanese owners are continuously expanding. These are thoughts as one looks at such a vessel as the new *Chiyo Maru*, which has just left for Hongkong on her maiden voyage. The T.K.K. fleet is now worthy of the Atlantic, and if American legislators continue in the same conservative attitude regarding the principle of marine subsidies the time will soon come when the T.K.K., N.Y.K., and C.P.R. will share the Pacific passenger trade between them. The two former companies are making undisputed efforts in this direction and already almost monopolize the trade out of San Francisco and Seattle. We are on the eve, too, of developments further south, in Columbia and Chile, both of which countries are now "opened" to Japan by treaty of commerce, and the attractions of both are being more or less advertised in this country as fields for Japanese emigrants and commerce. In Tokyo there is established what is known as the Chilean Propaganda, which seems to be doing useful work in connection with industry here, especially agricultural industry. At a dinner given the other evening to Mr. Hiohi, the newly appointed Minister to Chile, the conditions in the South American States and the prospects of Japan in that region and in mutual trade were discussed. Mr. Asano, head of the Toyo Kisen Kaisha, was present and announced an arrangement between the Japanese Government and his company to open a service to Chile next year. In this way does the Government foster commerce with other countries, at the same time helping infant industry. There can be no question that this policy is the right one at such a stage of development as Japan is now in, and that the result will be the ultimate domination of the trade of the Pacific of vessels under the Japanese flag.

A TRIP NORTH.

A HONGKONG GENTLEMAN'S IMPRESSIONS.

Since the momentous events of last month more than ordinary attention has been directed to Peking and the North of China and the impressions of such an acute observer as Mr. Lau Chu Pak, who has just returned from a trip in the North, will no doubt be read with interest, especially as they indicate that the rumoured unrest in that part of the country has not found expression. His conclusions are entirely different. He found the country peaceful, the people contented, and, though trade everywhere was bad, the outlook was not without hope. But it is perhaps better to give his own words:—

Yes, it certainly was an interesting trip. I passed through 105 towns and villages, and, of course, I saw a great deal of my fellow countrymen. Speaking generally, there can be no doubt that the introduction of railways has effected a great improvement in the country. The people have perhaps unconsciously undergone a change, but a change that is nevertheless apparent. They have grown accustomed to foreigners, they are not so shy of them as they once were. Of course, they have much to learn yet, but the enlightenment which has been effected is undoubtedly a tribute to the educational influence of the locomotive.

The line from Hankow to Peking passes through 73 stations. Candidly I was not impressed by the line. There is plenty of room for improvement in the direction of comforts for travellers. General supervision seems to be lacking, and things are left too much to the boys or caretakers of the different carriages. If you don't tip them sufficiently you cannot even get water. You are expected to pay a dollar or more for a pot of tea and a few melon seeds. The coolies who carry the luggage are also a nuisance: like those elsewhere they ask more than they are entitled to but as you are practically at their mercy you have to accede to their demands. On the Shanghai to Nanking Railway and on the Tientsin to Peking railway the conditions are much better, both as regards service and comforts. Shanghai is, of course, the best. There you can get what you want, and you are not put to all sorts of inconveniences if you do not comply with extortionate demands. At Peking after you pay the coolie hire to the head men you are met with a request for an extra payment which, it is explained, is intended as a contribution to a certain hospital but whether it exists or not you have no means of knowing. The traveller is also subjected to most vexatious delays in the capital. I was detained fully two hours on account of the difficulties with coolies and also the strict search of the luggage made by the underlings.

Peking itself is perfectly calm, both in the commercial and political worlds, there being no such occurrences as were rumoured in the South. Everybody is in his old position and the Regent seems fair and reasonable. In matters of State he yields to Prince Ching on account of his seniority.

The management of the Tientsin-Peking railway has satisfactory results. The carriages are better than on the other railways and the attention greater. There are also good comfortable waiting rooms. The Hankow Railway seems to be entirely under the control of the Chinese clerical staff. The country crossed by the line is flat, but the soil is rich and every bit of ground is under cultivation. The appearance of the people is not very bright but still they seem contented. The traffic on the Yangtze is tremendous. The boats are always full of passengers, and, no doubt, competition is very keen. As far as I could see perfect peace reigns throughout the country. Business is bad everywhere and Hongkong is no worse than the sister ports.

What impressed me with regard to Tientsin was that the Chinese part was quite Europeanised. The roads are well made well policed, and trams, carriages and rickshaws run everywhere. Houses in the European style are being rapidly run up, mostly for the Cantonese holding official positions or trading there. The shops owned by Chinese seem to be leaving the foreign settlement and grouping together in the Chinese city. There can be no doubt that Tientsin is progressive and that it

will become an important trading centre. The British settlement is very large and appears to me to be the best kept of all.

In Peking you see well made roads, and what is more, you will see steam rollers constantly at work.

One feature of rural life which struck me was the variety of animals used in ploughing the fields. In one place I saw a donkey, a bullock and a horse harnessed to the one plough. In another place I saw a more primitive arrangement. A man and his wife were tilling the soil. The man dug a spade in the ground and the woman pulled it by means of the rope attached to the spade. In this way they laboriously turned up the soil.

Altogether my trip was most interesting and instructive. It gave me an opportunity of seeing what the Chinese are doing in the North and it showed beyond doubt that the state of the country is peaceful. Detectives are all over the place, looking out for suspicious characters. Chinese dressed in European clothing receive much attention from these men.

THE RAILWAY TRAGEDY.

Before Mr. J. H. Kemp at the Magistracy on Dec. 30, Lau Fung, a water carrier on the Kowloon-Canton Railway, was charged with robbing and murdering an Indian named Jewar Singh at Shatin.

Mr. Leo d'Almada e Castro, from the office of Messrs. Goldring, Barlow and Morrell, said he had just been instructed for the defence, and asked for a remand.

His Worship intimated that he would first hear the evidence of the medical officer attached to the railway.

Dr. J. W. Hartley deposed to being called to Shatin on the 19th instant. When he arrived the Indian was dead, and there were numerous wounds and bruises on his body. The abdomen was very much swollen, which suggested that deceased had received some heavy blows in that vicinity. Witness was of opinion that death was due to the injuries to the abdomen and the result of the shock. Deceased had for a long time been in a delicate state of health.

The case was adjourned until Wednesday, January 6th.

THE MARRIAGE OF MISS MASTER.

There was an interesting and pretty wedding on 4th Nov. at Thornbury Parish Church, Gloucestershire, Miss Mary Master, daughter of Mr. Godfrey Chester Master, of Kyneton, Thornbury, and late of Hongkong, marrying Lieutenant the Hon. Arthur Stopford, R.N., second son of Viscount Stopford. The Rev. Alan Cornwall officiated.

The bridesmaids were Miss Joan Master, sister of the bride, the Hon. Sybil Stopford and the Hon. Eileen Stopford, sisters of the bridegroom, and Miss Betty Stewart Lockhart.

The Hon. Marjorie Stopford, the bridegroom's sister, and Master Phil Crips, were trainbearers. The brother of the bridegroom, Lieutenant the Hon. Guy Stopford, R.N., was best man.

The bride will be recognised, of course, as the daughter of the well-known solicitor of Hongkong, while the bridegroom served on the *King Alfred* on the China station and on the same ship was a son of Sir J. H. Stewart Lockhart, as a midshipman. The daughter of the new Knight of Wei-hai-wei, it will be seen, was a bridesmaid. I understand that the romance began in Hongkong.

The bride was given away by her father. She wore only one article of jewellery, a diamond brooch, given to her by her mother. She looked charming in a Directoire gown of ivory satin charmeuse, the corsage being embroidered in silver; and the train was of Shanghai brocade, trimmed with chiffon and orange blossoms.

The bridesmaids wore Empire dresses of pale blue, and mole-coloured satin hats, trimmed with shaded dahlias. The trainbearers were attired in Georgian picture costumes.

After the reception at Kyneton the newly married couple left for the honeymoon in Ireland, the bride's going away dress being of Nattier blue cloth.

Among the guests were many members of the Anglo-China colony now resident in England or home on vacation.

COMMERCIAL.

IMPORTS.:-

RICE.

HONGKONG, 4th January:—Large demands having come forward, the prices are advancing

Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary	\$5.70	to	\$5.75
" Round, Good quality ...	5.40	to	5.45
" Long	5.60	to	5.65
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2 ...	5.45	to	5.60
" Garden, " No. 1 ...	5.35	to	5.55
" White,	5.75	to	5.80
" Fine Cargo	5.50	to	5.55

SUGAR.

Kobe, 16th December.—Cane.—Raw.—Java.—Market depressed, very little business doing. Formosa.—New crop sugar expected to arrive shortly and buyers are holding back at present. Osaka Refined.—The Trust Sales Offices held auctions on the 3rd and 13th instant. At the first sale, 13,800 bags were sold at a decline of from 18 to 50 cent on previous prices. At the second auction, 15,000 bags were sold at a further decline of 25 to 35 cent, and 3,500 bags Kobe sugar were sold at a decline of 50 to 67 cent.

Yokohama, 15th December:—There is no business doing in imported refined. Prices of Japan refined dropped 25 per picul at the last auction.

JAPANESE MARKETS.

Kobe, 16th December.—Cotton.—American.—The crop estimate issued by the Home Bureau recently is given at 12,920,000 bales—this, combined with ginner's report showing an excess of over 2,500,000 bales on the corresponding period of last year, has caused prices to decline since our last report, closing with further weak tendency. Latest quotation for "forward" Middling being T. 29.50. No business of importance, however, has transpired. "Spot" is nominal at Y. 29.00. Indian. The prices have weakened in sympathy with the fall of American quotations, and the continued depressed state of the Yarn market prohibits operations to any great extent from being done in either "forward" or "spot." Business generally is dull at following rates: Broach Y. 25.00; Akola Y. 22.00; Bengal Y. 21.00. Chinese.—The demand in this direction has decreased this year owing to unsatisfactory results in both "forward" and "spot" are very small. Rates are "Best" Y. 23.75; "Common" Y. 21.50. Shirtings.—Nothing doing, clearances very unsatisfactory. Cotton Goods and Fancies.—Market quieter. Worsteds and Woollens.—New orders continue to be very scarce. There is still a considerable amount of old stocks stored in Kobe and Osaka. Metals.—Weak. Very few orders reported. Rice.—Weak

YOKOHAMA, 15th Dec.—Cotton Yarns.—No new business is reported. Cotton Piece Goods.—There is little confidence in the market, and a general impression is prevalent that lower prices will be reached ere long. Woollen and Woollen Mixtures.—Stocks are still heavy, and there is no change to report. A little new business is doing for the winter trade. Textiles Generally.—As is usual at the close of the year, little or no business is doing and the position generally may be said to be of a stagnant nature. Raw Cotton.—The market remains dull, as spinners are still looking for lower prices. Rice.—Still no change to report. Metals.—With no new business offering and present requirements satisfied, the market is quiet. Window Glass.—The market here is at present high compared with home prices, and quite a little business is passing. Kerosene Oil.—Arrivals and deliveries for the first half of December show: Standard Oil Co., Arrivals nil; deliveries, 12,700 cases. Rising Sun Petroleum Co.: Arrivals 50,000 units; deliveries, 3,500 units. Flour.—Prices have hardened somewhat on the imported article, due to high prices asked by American millers. The Japanese seem determined to push the output of their own mills, and imports of foreign made flour are very small. Wheat.—Since last report there have been several contracts put through for Australian Wheat for forward delivery, and a small lot of American Wheat, about 1,500 tons, is due to arrive this month per *Fukui Maru*, otherwise there is little or no enquiry.

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, December 16th.

Quotations are:—

Malwa New	\$1180	per picul
Malwa Old	\$1190	do.
Malwa Older	\$1200	do.
Malwa Very Old	\$1220	do.
Persian Fine Quality	\$850	do.
Persian Extra Fine	\$950	do.
Patna New	\$1120	per chest.
Patna Old	\$1135	do.
Benares New	\$1057	do.
Benares Old	\$—	do.

PIECE GOODS.

Messrs. Noel, Murray & Co. in their latest Piece Goods Report, dated Shanghai 24th December state:—Re-Exports to Newchwang.—As compared with last year there is certainly a vast improvement in many articles, but in the heavier makes are plainly noticeable the inroads that have been made by the Japanese competition. It is some satisfaction, however, to see a palpable increase over the last two years. There certainly seem to be hopes for the Port yet, and the coming year may be looked forward to with some amount of confidence. Returns of Stocks of Imports.—The forms for the collection of these returns at the end of the year will contain certain alterations, with the object of making them more complete and also more easy to follow. With the multitudinous assortment of goods that come to this market now it is obviously impossible to have a heading for each, so they must be classified as nearly as possible, and this the Committee appointed by the Chamber of Commerce have endeavoured to do and we venture to think the next returns will accordingly be more accurate and thorough. It is especially important at this time, when the trade should be undergoing a complete reorganisation, that the stock returns be as comprehensive and correct as possible, in order to judge the basis on which future business is to be done. It must not be forgotten that the value of the Returns is greatly enhanced by their early publication. The market during the interval has certainly been quieter, sales from first hands being few and far between. The prices offered for goods in stock are mostly quite inadequate and lead to little business; here and there buyers have, perchance, had urgent orders to secure certain goods for a special market and have accordingly had to pay up, but that is no criterion of the actual demand. For the Spring trade the dealers are endeavouring to pick up bargains, but holders prefer, to take the risk of the market themselves, as the prices offered are fully 5% below the cost of goods coming forward. Native holders are offering goods for cash or forward delivery at proportionate rates, thus 300 Cases White Shirtings have been resold to Tientsin merchants at Tls. 4.15 for prompt cash or Tls. 4.25 for optional delivery after China New Year. The business done has chiefly been for Vladivostok, in the anticipation of it soon ceasing to be an open Port, so that the demand cannot be called altogether legitimate. There is some enquiry for 8.4lbs. Shirtings for Tsingtau we understand, which is being filled chiefly by second hand sales and Auction cargo Hankow and the River Ports are remaining almost inactive as regards fresh orders. The Railways are not doing anything to speak of to foster the trade of the country on account of the heavy likin charges en route which are quite prohibitive, and should receive the urgent attention of the Central Government without further delay. It is satisfactory to learn that the Prince Regent is fast inspiring confidence in that direction, and the order he has just issued to have a Budget prepared may serve to expose many abuses against which trade has to contend. The market in Manchester is difficult to follow as no two Importers here seem to have the same experience of it. Some say it is firm at prices fully 10% over those ruling here, others that they can obtain goods there at replacing cost; though we are inclined to think the latter must be in exceptional cases where makers had run into stock. However, we do not hear of much fresh buying having been done. Cotton is keeping very steady to the surprise of many who do not see how it can keep up in view of the heavy prospective supply. The latest Liverpool quotations for Mid-American are 4.8d. spot and 4.67d. for February/March option, the former being down 2 points and the latter up 3 points since our last report. Egyptian is quoted 8.7d, a drop of one Eighth. New York is strong and

seems to have a rooted idea that a big demand must soon develop in China for American goods. Fortunately Manufacturers do not appear to be working on that supposition, but are busily engaged for the home trade. The latest quotations received are:—Lepperell Drills 11s. 4d. and 3.25-lbs. Drills 9s. 3d. to 9s. 7d. For Sheetings 10s. 8d. for standard weight and 10s. 8d. for 3 yard is quoted, which should not entice any business for this market. After some fluctuations during the interval Cotton comes to-day 8.75 cents for March, an advance of 15 cents on the week. Outward Shipments of American Domestic. From the monthly summary for Sept. of the Bureau of Statistics we gather the following figures:—Shipments to China during the month—1908, 7,582,100 yards=\$398,796. 1907, 1,859,085 yards=\$136,873. For the 9 months ending Sept. 1908, 66,015,065 yards=\$2,828,930 and 1908, 251,740,517 yards=\$15,416,152. Business in imported Yarns has been on the quiet side, but Local Spinners have enjoyed good innings, fully 18,000 bales being booked for delivery during the next three months. Cotton is steady to firm and meets with ready sale. In the private market we cannot find much doing from first hands, if there is anything sellers must be very reticent over their sales. We have heard of a small parcel of 12-lbs. Shirtings at Tls. 4.25, for which the best previous offer was Tls. 4.10. Further sales are pending at about that price. There is an enquiry for 8.4-lbs. Shirtings for Tsingtau but prices are not good enough to induce holder, to sell. Whatever is doing in Fancy Goods is merely on a retail scale, no more sensational sales en bloc are reported, though we understand that some foreign firms of recent date are booking indents for Manchester goods, not in large quantities it is true, but all the same on previous lines, a style of business the older established houses are looking at askance after previous experiences. Some of the transactions we hear of are very risky, if not absolutely dangerous. In American goods we hear a small business has been done with second hand holders for Chefoo, some of the transaction comprising small parcels of Buck's Head Sheetings at Tls. 4.80, Abbeville Sheetings at Tls. 4.65, a 3.50 yard Cloth under a private chop at Tls. 4.17 and 4 yard Buffalo L. L. at Tls. 4.00. Clearances have been fairly compared with recent movements. The Auctions, which are being gradually increased in size, have fairly well held their own, though showing a rather weaker tendency at the close. They do not call for further comment.

EXPORTS:—

SILK.

Yokohama, 15th Dec.:—Since the 4th inst. the market for raw silk has ruled very quiet and only a small business has been done. Prices have, however kept steady, and at the close rather important transactions have taken place in Sinahua. The waste silk market has displayed considerable activity during the past ten days, but there is no change, in quotations.

HABUTAI.—There has been a general decline in rates for Kaga since the commencement of the month, ranging from two to four per cent. This is doubtless due to a cessation in demand from all parts. There is not much change to chronicle in the Echiren market, though quotations for certain widths show a slight decline. The continued difficulty in obtaining desirable goods is doubtless the cause of the even tendency of the market. A fall in prices is also to be noted in Kawamata in all widths, there being no demand whatsoever for this Habutai.

CAMPHOR.

HONGKONG, 4th January:—There has been no sale; price \$83.50—\$84.50.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per P. & O. str., *Delta*, sailed on 26th Dec., 1908. For Hamburg:—4 cases birds feathers. For Manchester:—250 bales waste silk. For Saint Etienne:—30 bales raw silk. For Milan:—29 bales raw silk. For Lyons:—105 bales raw silk. For Marseilles:—72 bales raw silk, 30 bales junjum silk, 2 cases birds feathers. For London:—50 bales raw silk, 81 bales waste silk, 25 cases tea, 20 cases persian opium, 6 cases silk, 14 cases private effects. Naples:—1 case silk piece goods. For Trieste:—1 case bird feathers.

HANKOW, 23rd December.—The prices quoted are for the net shipping weight excluding cost of packing for export:—

	Per picul
Cowhides, best selected	Tls. 30.25
Do. seconds	34.75
Buffalo hides, best selected	23.00
Goatskins, untanned, chiefly white colour,	—
Buffalo Horns, average 3 lbs. each	—
White China Grass, Wuchang and/or Poochi	9.00
White China Grass, Sinshan and/or Chayn	8.20
Green China Grass, Szechuen	—
Jute	3.50
White Vegetable Tallow, Kinchow	11.10
White Vegetable Tallow, Pingchow and/or Macheng	11.10
White Vegetable Tallow, Mongyu	—
Green Vegetable Tallow, Kiyu	10.30
Animal Tallow	11.20
Gallnuts, usual shape	15.85
Gallnuts, plum do.	17.60
Tobacco, Tingchow	—
Tobacco, Wongkong	—
Black Bristles, Riflings	—
Feathers, grey and/or white Wild Duck	—
Turmeric	—
Sesamum Seed	4.95
Sesamum Seed Oil	—
Wood Oil	8.70
Tea Oil	—

HONGKONG SHARE QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 31st December, 1908.—The recent Christmas and the approaching New Year holidays have somewhat disturbed the market, causing slight tendency to weakness and a restriction of business. On the whole however rates have been fairly well maintained and a fair business transacted, the market closing steady at quotation in most cases. Exchange on London closes at 1/8½ T.T. and on Shanghai at 75½.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have changed hands at 84½, closing with sellers at that rate. Nationals remain unchanged at 51, and without business.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have found buyers at 835 but close with sellers at that rate. North Chinas have changed hands at 105 and close in further demand. Other stocks under this heading call for no remarks.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkongs continue steady at 325, and small sales have been effected at that rate. Chinas have ruled rather weaker and have declined to 106 with sales.

SHIPPING.—With the exception of sales of Douglas at 33, and of further buyers at that we have nothing to report under this heading.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars remains on offer at 112½ without any business to report. Luzons have declined to 18, with sellers.

MINING.—Raubs have ruled weak, and without sales, the market at time of closing being 8½ sellers.

DOCKS, WHARVES AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa are still weak, and settlement shares have accentuated the weakness without leading to business. Shares could probably be obtained at the moment at something under our quotation. Kowloon Wharfs continuing in demand have advanced to 45, with some few sales, and ok's with further buyers at that rate. In the absence of advance of advices from Shanghai, owing to the holidays there, we leave last weeks quotations unchanged, but they should be looked on as purely nominal.

LANDS, HOTELS AND BUILDINGS.—With the exception of Kowloon Land, which have declined to 33 with sellers, and Hotels which have improved to 84 with buyers, we have nothing to report under this heading.

COTTON MILLS.—The latest written advices from the North show that all Cotton stocks have improved. Ewos to 76, Internationals to 67½, Lion Kung Mows to 73, and Soy Chees to 285. Hongkongs remain unchanged, with sellers at 10 and buyers at 9.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Provident's have changed hands at the improved rate of 10 and more could be placed at that. Electric, Union Water Boats, and Watsons are enquired for at quotations but we have heard of no business in them. Ropes have found small buyers at 24, closing with sellers. Loes have declined to 220 with out sales. We have nothing further to report under this heading.

Quotations are as follows:—

STOCKS	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	all	\$845, sales & sel. London 282.10
National B. of China	26	\$51,
Marine Insurances—		
Canton	\$50	\$195, sellers
China Traders	\$25	\$87½, buyers
North China	25	Tls. 105, sal. & b.
Union	\$100	\$835, sales & sel.
Yangtze	\$60	\$167½,
Fire Insurances—		
China Fire	20	\$106, sales
Hongkong Fire	50	\$325, sales & sel.
Docks & Wharves—		
H. & W. Dock	all	\$90, sellers
Fenwick & Co., Geo	\$25	\$12, sellers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$9½, buyers
Shanghai Dock and Eng. Co., Ltd	Tls. 100	Tls. 75
Steamship Companies		
China and Manila	\$25	\$14, sellers
Douglas Steamship	all	\$33, sales
H., Canton & M.	\$15	\$29½, sellers
Indo-China S. N. Co.	all	\$37 sellers
Star Ferry	\$10	\$24
Shell Transport Co.	\$5	\$15, buyers
Taku Tug & L. Co.	Tls. 50	47½, buyers
S'hai Tug & L. Co.	Tls. 50	Tls. 45
Do. Preference		Tls. 48½
Refineries—		
China Sugar	all	\$112½, sellers
Luzon Sugar	all	\$18½, sellers
Perak Sugar Cult.	Tls. 50	Tls. 85,
Wharves—		
H. & K. Wharf & G.	all	\$45, buyers
S'hai & H. Wharf	Tls. 100	Tls. 140
Land and Buildings—		
H'kong Land Invest.	100	\$92, sellers
Shanghai Land	Tls. 50	Tls. 120
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$33, sellers
Wei-hai-wei Land and Building	Tls. 25	Tls. 9
Humphrey's Estate	all	\$9½, sellers
West Point Building	\$50	\$46, sellers
Tramways—		
The Peak Tramways	all	\$14
	\$1	\$2
Mining—		
Charbonnages	all	\$590, buyers
Raubs	18/10	\$8½, sellers
Hotels Etc—		
Hongkong Hotel Co.	all	\$84, buyers
Astor House Hotel	\$25	\$16½
Dispensaries—		
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$9½, buyers
Watkins, Ltd.	\$10	\$2, buyers
Lighting—		
Hongkong & C. Gas	all	\$200
Shanghai Gas Co.	Tls. 50	Tls. 118
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$18, sales & buy.
Miscellaneous—		
G. Island Cement	10	\$9.90, sellers
H.K. Milling Co., Ltd.	\$100	Nominal
Bell's Asbestos E. A	12/6	\$8, buyers
United Asbestos	\$4	\$1½
	\$10	\$230
Union Waterboat Co.	\$10	\$10, buyers
H'kong Dairy Farm	\$6	\$22½, sellers
Hongkong Ice Co.	all	\$220, sellers
Robinson Piano Co.	\$50	\$59, sellers
S'hai Waterworks Co.	\$20	Tls. 437½
H'kong M. Rope Co.	all	\$2½, sales & sellers
Hongkong C. S. Co.	\$10	\$9, buyers
Ewo Cotton S. & W.	Tls. 5	Tls. 76, buyers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 67½
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 10	Tls. 73
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 285
China Provident	\$10	\$10, sales
China-Borneo Co.	\$12	\$11, sellers
Campbell, M & Co.	all	\$9, buyers
Wm. Powell, Ltd.	\$7	\$4, sellers
South China M. Post	\$25	\$24
China Light & P. Co.	\$10	\$5½, sellers
Steam Laundry Co.	\$5	\$5, sellers
Weissmann, Ltd.	\$100	\$150
Cigar Companies—		
Philippine Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$8, sellers
Alhambra, Ltd.	\$50	Nominal

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

SHANGHAI SHARE QUOTATIONS.

23th December, 1908.

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATION.
Banks:—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	\$865, sellers
National of China...	26	\$51, buyers
Russo-Chinese	R187½	Tls. 175, sellers
Insurance:—		
Union Society C'ton	\$100	\$810, buyers
North-China	25	Tls. 100, sellers
Yangtze Assoon.	\$60	\$175, buyers
Canton	\$50	\$225, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$312½, buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$105, sales
Shipping:—		
Indo-China { pref. } £10		Tls. 37, sellers
Shell Trans. { ord. } £1		\$22.50, sellers
& Trading { pref. } 10		\$29.10, sellers
S'hai Tug & { ord. } T50		Tls. 47½, sales
Lighter { pref. } T50		Tls. 51½, buyers
Taku Tug & Lighter	T50	Tls. 48, sellers
Kochien Transport- ation & Tow Boat	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
Docks & Wharves:—		
S'hai Dock & Eng.	T100	Tls. 75, buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$91, sellers
S. & H'kew Wharf	T100	Tls. 141, buyers
H. K'loon W. & G.	\$50	\$45, sellers
Yangtze	T100	Tls. 217½, seller
Sugar Companies:—		
Perak Cultivation	T50	Tls. 90, buyers
China Refining	\$100	\$132½, sellers
Mining:—		
Raub Australian	£1	\$8, sellers
Chinese Eng. & Min.	18/10	Tls. 17½, buyers
Lands:—		
S'hai Investment	T50	Tls. 120, sellers
H'kong Investment	\$100	\$93, sellers
Humphreys' Estate	\$10	\$104, sellers
Wei-hai-wei	T25	\$9, sellers
China	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
Anglo-French	T100	Tls. 100½, buyers
Cotton:—		
Ewo	T50	Tls. 76 buyers
International	T75	Tls. 67½, sales
Laou Kung Mow	T100	Tls. 73, sellers
Soy Chee	T500	Tls. 285, buyers
H'kong C. S. W. D.	\$10	\$9, buyers
Industrial:—		
Shanghai Gas	T50	Tls. 120, buyers
Major Brothers	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
Shanghai Ice	T25	Tls. 14, sellers
China Flour Mill	T50	Tls. 37½, buyers
S'hai Pulp & Paper	T100	Tls. 45, sellers
Green Is. Cement	\$10	\$9½, sales
Maatschappij, &c., in Langkat	Gs. 100	Tls. 860, buyers
Shanghai - Sumatra Tobacco	T20	Tls. 125 buyers
S'hai Waterworks	\$20	T. 437½, sales
Anglo-Ger. Brewery	100	\$85, buyers
A. Butler Cement, Tile Works	50	\$25, sellers
Kalumpang Rubber	50	Tls. 60, buyers
S. R'ber Estates	\$100	Tls. 90, sellers
Eastern Fibre	10	
Shanghai Electric Construction	£10	\$6.00 buyers
Miscellaneous:—		
Hall & Holtz	\$20	\$21, buyers
A. Llewellyn	\$60	\$52, buyers
A. S. Watson & Co.	\$10	\$11½, sellers
Central Ordinary	\$15	\$14½, buyers
Central Founders	\$15	\$400, buyers
S. Moutrie & Co.	\$50	\$45, sales
Weeks & Co.	\$20	\$25, sellers
Astor House Hotel	\$25	\$16, sellers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$98, sellers
Hotel des Colonies	T12.50	Tls. 6, sellers
Tsingtao Hotel Co.	\$100	nominal
Lane, Crawford & Co.	100	\$152½, buyers
Dunning & Co.	50	\$47½, sellers
S'hai Horse Bazar	T50	Tls. 40, sales
S'hai Mercury	T50	Tls. 50, sellers
S'hai Mutual Tele.	T50	Tls. 19, buyers
China Im. & Ex.		
Lumber	T100	Tls. 83, sellers
Shanghai Electric & Asbestos	\$25	\$23, sellers
Dallas Horse Repository	T50	Tls. 25, sellers
Printing Co.	T50	Tls. 50, sellers

J. P. BISSET & Co.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co. of Shanghai in their Share Report for the week ending December 23rd, 1908, state:—Business during the week mainly consisted of adjustments for the December Settlement, which took place yesterday. It was a very heavy Settlement, but so much care has been taken to meet the requirements of the day that it passed off very quickly and satisfactorily. The Stock Exchange will be closed to-day until the 2nd January, and we take this opportunity of wishing our clients a very happy and prosperous New Year. Banks.—Hongkong & Shanghai Banks.—Without business the rate has declined to \$870, at which price there are sellers. The T.T. rate on London to-day is 2/2½. Shipping.—Indo-Chinas. The first transaction for many months was recorded this week at Tls. 38, and since that a further sale at Tls. 37 has taken place. Shanghai Tug & Lighter Co.—A fair business has been done at Tls. 47½ for the Ordinary shares. Preference are wanted at Tl. 51½. Docks and Wharves.—Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf Co.—These shares have undergone various ups and downs since our last, between the two extremes of Tls. 135 & Tls. 140 for Dec. Yesterday during the Settlement, shares were wanted to complete, and some transactions took place at Tls. 140. We quote this rate at closing. Sugar Cos.—Nothing reported. Mining.—No business reported. Lands.—No business reported. Industrial.—Ewo Cottons have been dealt in at Tls. 76 for December, and for March at Tls. 79 and Tls. 79½. Internationals.—Transactions are reported at Tls. 67½ and Tls. 70 for March. Lau Kung Mows remain steady at Tls. 72 with sales for March at Tls. 74 and Tls. 75 during the week. Soy Chees have improved to Tls. 280. Mantachappij &c. in Langkata. A day or two before the Settlement sellers prevailed, and the rate for December dropped as low as Tls. 835. After the Settlement was over last night there were some buyers at Tls. 830. The whole of the week the forward rate has been well maintained at about Tls. 910—Tls. 900. A sale took place yesterday at Tls. 905 for March. Shanghai Sumatra Tobacco Co. shares are wanted at Tls. 123 for cash and Tls. 172½ for March. Kalumpung Rubbers. There are buyers at Tls. 60. Shanghai Electric Construction Co.—Business has taken place at £6. We believe there are further buyers. Miscellaneous.—Rates are as appended below. Loans and Debentures.—Municipal Six per cent debentures have been dealt in this week at Tls. 104.

EXCHANGE.

HONGKONG, January 4th

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/8½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/8½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/8½
Bank Bills at 4 months' sight	1/9
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/9½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight ..	1/9½
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	218
Credits 4 months' sight	222½
ON GERMANY.—	
On demand	178
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	42½
Credits, 60 days' sight	43½
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	130½
Bank, on demand	130½
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	130½
Bank on demand	130½
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight	75½
Private, 30 days' sight	76½
ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand	
On demand	85
ON MANILA.—On demand	
On demand	85½
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand	
On demand	74½
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	
On demand	105
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	
On demand	8½ p.c. pm.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	
On demand	8½ p.c. pm.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	
On demand	90½
SYNOPSIS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$11.35
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tal.	\$60.30
BAR SILVER per oz	23½

SUBSIDIARY COINS.

		per cent. discount
Chinese	20 cents pieces	\$4.45
"	10 " "	5.60
Hongkong	20 " "	4.00
"	10 " "	4.10

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

December:—

ARRIVALS.	
22, E. F. Ferdinand, Aus. str., from S'hai.	
22, Looksun, German str., from Bangkok.	
22, Mandasan M., Jap. str., from Kutchinotzu.	
22, Nikko Maru, Jap. str., from Yokohama.	
22, Nord, British str., from Anping.	
22, Progress, Norwegian str., from Karatsu.	
22, Shaohsing, British str., from Shanghai.	
22, Tonkin, French str., from Marseilles.	
23, A. Apear, British str., from Calcutta.	
23, Carnarvonshire, Br. str., from Singapore.	
23, Daiya Maru, Jap. str., from Wakamatsu.	
23, Germania, German str., from Japan.	
23, Haiyang, British str., from Coast Ports.	
23, Haldia, Nor. str., from Chinkiang.	
23, Hongkong, French str., from Hoihow.	
23, Tjipanas, Dutch str., from Shanghai.	
24, Ariaki Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.	
24, Assaye, British str., from Bombay.	
24, Bandai Maru, Jap. str., from Moji.	
24, Chowfa, German str., from Swatow.	
24, Cyclops, British str., from Liverpool.	
24, Fansang, British str., from Hongay.	
24, Hailan, French str., from Hoihow.	
24, Hangsang, British str., from Shanghai.	
24, Mathilde, German str., from Haiphong.	
24, Minnesota, Am. str., from Seattle.	
24, Ragnar, Nor. str., from Wakamatsu.	
24, Sanuki M., Jap. str., from Singapore.	
25, Delta, British str., from Shanghai.	
25, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.	
25, Helene, German str., from Hoihow.	
25, Hupeh, British str., from Haiphong.	
25, Mandal, Norwegian str., from Swatow.	
25, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.	
25, Sikh, British str., from Shanghai.	
26, Benvorlich, British str., from Singapore.	
26, Choshun Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.	
26, Newchang, British str., from Swatow.	
26, Tean, British str., from Manila.	
27, Haitan, British str., from Swatow.	
27, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.	
27, L. Scheiff, German str., from Tsingtan.	
27, Moyune, British str., from Shanghai.	
27, Orange Branch, Br. str., from Sydney.	
27, Proteus, Nor. str., from Chinkiang.	
27, Scandia, German str., from Shanghai.	
27, Shinano Maru, Jap. str., from Shanghai.	
28, Anhui, British str., from Swatow.	
28, Asia, Am. str., from San Francisco.	
28, Chihli, British str., from Haiphong.	
28, Chiyuen, Chinese str., from Shanghai.	
28, Daijin Maru, Jap. str., from Swatow.	
28, Helene Rickmers, Ger. str., from Moji.	
28, Hirano M., Jap. str., from Yokohama.	
28, Huichow, British str., from Cebu.	
28, Kwongsang, British str., from Shanghai.	
28, Pheumpenh, British str., from Saigon.	
28, Linan, British str., from Chinkiang.	
28, Waishing, British str., from Chinkiang.	
28, Zafiro, British str., from Manila.	
29, Buelow, German str., from Yokohama.	
29, C. Apear, British str., from Calcutta.	
29, Hangchow, British str., from Chinwantao.	
29, Pongtong, German str., from Bangkok.	
29, Yesan Maru, Jap. str., from Kutchinotzu.	
30, Ajax, British str., from Liverpool.	
30, Antilochus, British str., from Tacoma.	
30, Chipshing, British str., from Chefoo.	
30, Haiching, British str., from Coast Ports.	
30, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.	
30, Mausang, British str., from Sanitikan.	
30, P. E. Friedrich, Ger. str., from Bremen.	
30, Rajah, German str., from Bangkok.	
30, Suruga, British str., from New York.	
30, Taiwan, British str., from Chefoo.	
DEPARTURES.	
22, Chenan, British str., for Shanghai.	
22, Dumbas, French str., for Europe.	
22, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.	
22, Hilary, German str., for Hongay.	
22, Hongkong M., Jap. str., for Yokohama.	
22, J. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.	
22, Kangping, Chinese str., for Chinkiang.	
22, Namsang, British str., for Singapore.	
22, Signal, British str., for Haiphong.	
22, Taming, British str., for Manila.	
22, Yetorofu Maru, Jap. str., for Kobe.	
22, Yunnan, British str., for Australia.	
23, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.	
23, Kiukiang, British str., for Amoy.	
23, Knivsberg, German str., for Haiphong.	
23, Kumano Maru, Jap. str., for Japan.	

23, Lennox, British str., for New York.
23, Nikko Maru, Jap. str., for Manila.
23, Sunda, British str., for Yokohama.
23, Tonkin, French str., for Yokohama.
23, Yushun, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
24, Carnarvonshire, Br. str., for Nagasaki.
24, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
24, Hongbee, British str., for Amoy.
24, Kohsichang, German str., for Swatow.
24, Koonshing, British str., for Shanghai.
24, Nord, British str., for Singapore.
24, Quarta, German str., for Batavia.
24, Solfond, Norwegian str., for Penang.
24, Sungkiang, British str., for Cebu.
24, Telemachus, British str., for Saigon.
24, Tungshing, British str., for Shanghai.
24, Yingchow, British str., for Shanghai.
25, Assaye, British str., for Shanghai.
25, Haiyang, British str., for Swatow.
25, Hongkong, French str., for Haiphong.
26, Chiyo M., Jap. str., for San Francisco.
26, Chunsang, British str., for Hongay.
26, Delta, British str., for Europe.
26, E. F. Ferdinand, Aus. str., for Singapore.
26, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
26, Heliopolis, British str., for Durban.
26, Hsin Chi, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
26, Kweilin, British str., for Swatow.
26, Laisang, British str., for Singapore.
26, Phranang, German str., for Swatow.
26, Rubi, British str., for Manila.
26, Sanuki Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
27, Choising, German str., for Swatow.
27, Daiya Maru, Jap. str., for Wakamatsu.
27, Devawongse, German str., for Swatow.
27, Gryfevale, British str., for Newcastle.
27, Shibetoro Maru, Jap. str., for Takao.
27, Taki Maru, Jap. str., for Moji.
27, Yuensang, British str., for Manila.
28, Chinkiang, British str., for Amoy.
28, Hsin Fung, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
29, Benvorlich, British str., for Nagasaki.
29, Cheongshing, British str., for Swatow.
29, Dakotah, British str., for Manila.
29, Haitan, British str., for Swatow.
29, Helene, German str., for Swatow.
29, Kashing, British str., for Shanghai.
29, Laisang, British str., for Singapore.
29, Mathilde, German str., for Haiphong.
29, Moyune, British str., for Singapore.
29, Scandia, German str., for Colombo.
29, Shaohsing, British str., for Shanghai.
29, Tean, British str., for Manila.
30, Borneo, German str., for Sandakan.
30, Buelow, German str., for Europe, &c.
30, Cyclops, British str., for Kobe.
30, Hangsang, British str., for Swatow.
30, Hirano Maru, Jap. str., for Singapore.
30, Hupeh, British str., for Haiphong.
30, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
30, Sikh, British str., for Singapore.
30, Yunnan, British str., for Moji.

PASSENGERS.

ARRIVED.

Per C. Apear, from Calcutta, &c., Mrs Cree, Messrs Wilks, Upelarch and Pesch.
 Per Haitan, from Swatow, Mr and Mrs Molring, Mr and Mrs Holliday, Dr C. H. Ludwigs and Mr P. C. Potes.
 Per Buelow, from Yokohama, Messrs A. E. Pederson, E. Becker, H. Hailand, H. Hansen, T. W. Groves, A. Albrecht, von Kalmer Podolski, T. Zelsler, and Joh. Schultz.
 Per Assaye, for Hongkong, from Bombay, Mr and Miss Turner, Messrs Barjorjee and Jijibai; from London, Mr Harrett; from Marseilles, Mr & Mrs Maitland, Lady Lugard and maid, and Mr W. James; from Colombo, Mr MacKie; from Singapore, Lt. Bramble, Messrs Boyd and Hayes; for Shanghai, from Bombay, Mr and Mrs Hara, child, infant and ayah; from London, Mr and Mrs L. A. Graves, Messrs R. Gunson, J. Ingram and R. Jarwood; from Marseilles, Mr and Mrs Goecke; from Singapore, Capt. Wright; for Manila, from London, Mr H. Sutcliffe; for Yokohama, from London, Miss Henniker, Messrs Noblesvallet and S. G. Adam; from Marseilles, Mr and Mrs John Noble and maid, Mrs MacKie, Miss Waters and Mr Garnet W. James; from Port Said, Mrs and Miss Butler.

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